

American pilots lost in helicopter and B52 crashes; marines killed by their own side

Key artillery island falls to allied bombs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

BRITISH and American bombers have destroyed an important Iraqi artillery battery on an island 10 miles off Kuwait City, allied commanders said yesterday. Kuwaitis still living there would be the first to be liberated from Iraqi occupation.

Details of the successful raids were released as American officials admitted that seven, and possibly eight, marines had been killed by their own side near the Saudi border last week. Another two pilots died yesterday when their Cobra helicopter crashed and three men were missing after a B52 bomber went down in the Indian Ocean. Three others were rescued.

The artillery and anti-aircraft emplacement on the island of Faylaka posed a threat to allied warships and amphibious operations, Group Captain Niall Irving said in Riyadh. The raid had been carried out by RAF Jaguar GR1s armed with 1,000lb bombs, which

Blow up the uncovered battery. The Jaguars came under heavy fire, which was suppressed by American A6 Intruders called in from anti-ship combat patrol.

Group Captain Irving said Faylaka had a particular strategic value. "It's very important that it's in our hands. By clearing out the enemy from there, we may open another option that exists from the sea."

Seven of the marines killed during a series of Iraqi incursions last Tuesday died when a maverick missile hit their light armoured vehicle, Major General Robert Johnston said last night. "Friendly fire" might also have killed an eighth and wounded two others, he said.

The general also disclosed that a Cobra helicopter on escort duty inside Saudi Arabia had crashed, killing its two crew members. A Saudi spokesman said the crash was not related to combat.

The B52 that went down yesterday was returning to its home base on Diego Garcia after a bombing mission. The Pentagon said there was no evidence that it had been shot

down by enemy fire. Rescuers pulled three of the six crew members from the sea and mounted a search for their colleagues, but held out little hope of retrieving the aircraft. The bomber was the first B52 to be lost in the war and the twentieth American aircraft to be reported lost or missing.

At least 99 Iraqi aircraft had been destroyed on the ground, General Johnston said, adding that that could be a low estimate because some of the hardened bunkers at Iraqi airfields held more than one plane. RAF bombing of the airfields had resumed after Iraqi attempts to repair runways. Group Captain Irving said: "One in western Iraq was attacked early yesterday by eight Tornados, dropping 40 1,000lb bombs."

Allied bombers were continuing to hit Iraqi oil refineries, and 16 Tornados had "paid a visit" to a crude oil pumping station deep in Iraq. Ammunition stocks were also being attacked, and a dump at al Ahmadi, south of Kuwait City, was destroyed.

American planes patrolling over Iraq yesterday attacked two launching sites as soon as they showed their position by firing Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia. Explosions were seen at one site. The Scud fired at Riyadh had been intercepted, but debris fell on a block of flats, wounding 29 people. The two missiles fired at Israel were said to have caused no significant damage or injury.

Group Captain Niall Irving said in a briefing in Saudi Arabia that the RSPCA team would be sent to inspect the oil slicks.

The main slick was deliberately released by Iraqi forces into the Gulf last weekend. It has grown to more than 100 miles long and covered beaches on Saudi Arabia's northeast coast.

There is a second slick, roughly half the size of the first, spreading from Iraq's Mina al-Bakr terminal, near the south end of the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

A spokesman for the society confirmed yesterday that a team and equipment were being prepared to fly to polluted sites in Saudi Arabia. He said the RSPCA had approached both the Saudi Arabian and British governments offering help as soon as the magnitude of the oil pollution had become apparent.

The spokesman said the number of volunteers, their identities and departure dates still had to be confirmed. "We have tremendous expertise in this country at tackling the effects of oil pollution on wildlife," the spokesman added.

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Pit-stop at 20,000ft: a US F16 fighter about to refuel from a KC135 tanker 30 miles from Kuwait yesterday. It took on 20,000lb of fuel in 70 seconds

RSPCA to help rescue Gulf birds

By NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of RSPCA wildlife experts with special expertise in treating animals contaminated by oil is to be flown to Saudi Arabia, it was announced yesterday.

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More pressure for interest-rate cut as the recession worsens

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH evidence of deepening recession will today bring increased pressure on Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to cut interest rates well before budget day.

The intensity of the squeeze on home-buyers is plain in a report by Nationwide, the second biggest building society, which shows one mortgage-holder in ten in arrears, or having to renegotiate borrowings. According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, a record 40,000 homes were repossessed last year, nearly twice the previous peak. Worse is expected, especially in the South-East, as lenders tighten up on defaulters.

The construction industry, one of the sectors hardest hit by the slowdown, wants the interest rate cut by two percentage points to help to avert a further slump. The latest survey from the Building Employers' Confederation shows two-thirds of building firms expecting business to worsen this year.

Gordon Brown, Opposition trade and industry spokesman, broadened the attack on government economic policy yesterday, accusing ministers of increasing the pressure on the corporate sector, which

was already struggling under the weight of an annual interest rate of 8.50 per cent.

The government was planning a 40 per cent reduction over the next two years in state backing for research and development, Mr Brown said. "As 500 companies go to the wall every week, ministers are imposing the double burden of cuts in research support vital to our long-term prosperity."

A Labour survey of unfilled positions at Jobcentres suggests that the sharp deterioration in the jobs market is penetrating into the Tory heartlands, while mortgage debts continue to trouble traditional Conservative voters.

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De Klerk appeal, page 9

Britain presses for an end to sanctions

By MICHAEL BRYNOR, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday that he would be pressing fellow community foreign ministers in Brussels today to remove remaining EC sanctions against South Africa. This follows President de Klerk's announcement on Friday of the forthcoming abolition of the key laws underpinning apartheid.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Hurd said that it was agreed by the Twelve at their Rome summit in December to lift sanctions when the proposals put forward by Mr de Klerk had been tabled. "Now Presi-

dent de Klerk has moved on again. He has produced a very ambitious legislative programme," Mr Hurd said.

"We agreed in December when he did that, when legislation was tabled, we would move against the remaining sanctions. Tomorrow when I go to Brussels I will be urging that we do so."

Asked about the continuation by Archbishop Desmond Tutu that the time to remove sanctions had not come, Mr Hurd replied: "What I heard was that they had to look at it."

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De Klerk appeal, page 9

Sentencing reform call

Labour is to revive demands for scrapping the minimum sentence for life sentences. The Opposition has been criticised for under-estimating the number of MPs, and particularly peers, who now believe judges should be able to impose determinate or indeterminate jail terms for murder.

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Pop flop

When the best-selling single is a 20-year-old song from The Righteous Brothers (above), what is the future of pop music, still Britain's biggest leisure industry? Page 15

When the best-selling single is a 20-year-old song from The Righteous Brothers (above), what is the future of pop music, still Britain's biggest leisure industry? Page 15

Farm controls

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is expected to give local authorities the power to control the siting, design and construction of farm buildings, removing farmers' virtual freedom from planning control. Page 7

Army accused

Stipe Mesic, the Croatian representative on the Yugoslav presidency, has accused the army of a "vicious campaign" to bring down Croatia's democratically elected government. Page 8

Kaifu besieged

Japan's much-vaunted harmony has all but vanished from the Diet after Toshiki Kaifu's pledge last month to provide £4.6 billion in support for the multinational forces in the Gulf. Page 9

Speedie start

David Speedie scored on his first appearance for Liverpool as the Football League champions drew 1-1 with Manchester United at Old Trafford yesterday. Page 34

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Kuwaitis 'running out of food stock'

By ELAINE FOGO

FOOD shortages in occupied Kuwait City are being exacerbated by thieves looting shops, hoarding supplies, and non-existent supplies. A picture of markets without meat, fruit, vegetables, grains and flour, bakeries closed down by the Iraqi authorities, and garages out of petrol is painted in a detailed letter faxed out of Kuwait by satellite last night.

In the letter to senior Kuwaiti exiles in London, the sender, who must remain anonymous for his safety, made an appeal for help to the outside world on behalf of the Kuwaitis.

"The soldiers are busy digging and constructing as well as breaking into houses and

stealing, or harassing local citizens. Some Kuwaiti residents have reported that all the food they have managed to store for the past few months was completely taken away, and now they are left without food or money," he said.

"The case of people running out of food is becoming very common and the situation is becoming very desperate." Even those Kuwaitis with Iraqi money were unable to find food, he said, because it was seldom that private trucks would venture across the border from Iraq because of the anger and lack of fuel. The Iraqis, he said, "were not giving a damn about the

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Wealthiest women bank on their birthright

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A FOOL may soon be parted from his money, but rarely, it seems, is a woman. According to the latest list of the world's 20 richest women, their average age is more than 62 and they have spent a lifetime nurturing their wealth. With the exception of a German self-made millionairess they were born to money.

The exception is Grete Schickedanz, aged 78, of the Quelle mail-order chain who is the world's tenth richest woman. The survey is by *Harpers and Queen* magazine, which wins no prizes for listing the Queen as the world's richest woman with assets of £6,600 million. A frosty "no comment" was the response from Buckingham Palace yesterday when asked its view on the magazine's assertion that her personal wealth rose by 25 per cent. The top 20 are:

- 1 The Queen, aged 64, £6,600 million.
- 2 Johanna Quandt, aged 63, controls BMW car group, £2,600 million.
- 3 Imelda Marcos, aged 61, £1,500 million.
- 4 Anne Cox Chambers, aged 70, American publisher's daughter, £1,400 million.
- 5 Barbara Cox Anthony, aged 67, sister of Anne Chambers, £1,400 million.
- 6 Liliane Bettencourt, aged 67, French daughter of L'Oréal cosmetics entrepreneur, £1,300 million.
- 7 Jacqueline Mars Vogel, aged 51, American daughter of Mars Inc magnate, £1,200 million.
- 8 Alice L. Walton, aged 41, daughter of American discount retailer Sam Walton, £1,000 million.
- 9 Heidi Horton, aged 49, widow of German department store founder, £950 million.
- 10 Grete Schickedanz, aged 78, German self-made millionairess, £900 million.

- 11 Idina Gardini, aged 54, daughter of wealthy Italian businessman, wife of another, £850 million.
- 12 Madeleine Dassault, aged 89, widow of French aviator, £750 million.
- 13 Margaret Cargill, aged 70, daughter of grain trader, £550 million.
- 14 Alicia Koplowitz, aged 37, daughter of Spanish-based property tycoon, £500 million.
- 15 Esther Koplowitz, aged 39, sister of Alicia, £500 million.
- 16 Margaret Hunt Hill, aged 74, eldest daughter of oil baron, £550 million.
- 17 Princess Melinda Esterhazy, aged 69, widow of Austrian prince, £540 million.
- 18 Chantal Grundig, aged 41, widow of electronics magnate, £530 million.
- 19 Jean B. Kroc, aged 62, widow of McDonald's chief, £500 million.
- 20 Munemoto Matsushita, aged 98, widow of Japanese entrepreneur, £490 million.



Schickedanz: exception to the inheritance rule

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Military men mask the truth about human costs of conflict

THERE is a sense of unreality about the level of casualties in the war so far. While it has to be assumed that the American and British figures released so far are accurate because in each country next of kin have to be informed, there is no clear picture of the deaths and injuries caused by the allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait.

For his own reasons, President Saddam Hussein has adopted an ambivalent policy on casualties. On one hand, he has tried to focus the international media's attention on civilian casualties in Baghdad, taking television crews to hospitals where children are seen with bloodstained bandages, but without giving a total figure of dead and wounded across the country. On the other hand, there are few details of military casualties and not a glimpse of a wounded Iraqi soldier lying in a Baghdad hospital.

Casualties deliver a political message as well as a military one. Were Saddam to give a body

count, if that were possible, of Iraqi civilians and soldiers killed since January 17, he would risk alarming his own people. The truth is that nobody on either side has any real idea of the scale of the casualties.

While the television cameras have concentrated on Baghdad, since that is the only area in which they are allowed to operate, the allied bombing has been carried out in every part of the country. There is no official information on the scale of damage and casualties in Basra, for example. This southern Iraqi port, base of many Republican Guard divisions and Iraq's theatre of operations command headquarters, has been subjected to some of the heaviest bombing.

In every war, military commanders have sought to suppress casualty figures, inflating or underestimating them, to send the right message home or to apply psychological pressure on the opposition. Since the allied forces have so far faced only

Information about the human cost of the war has been confusing and will become even less reliable once the bloody ground campaign starts, Michael Evans writes

limited ground action and have escaped air bombardment from Iraq, apart from Scud missiles, the issue of casualties has not yet affected the politics of the war, at least not on the allied side. Since the number of lost air crews has been kept to a minimum, the 11 marines killed in Khafji and the 14 Americans missing after their C130 aircraft went down over Kuwait last week were the first real test of the American public's resilience.

The Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations claimed last week that the allied air campaign was genocide. Did he mean that thousands of Iraqis have been killed or injured, or was it just propaganda? There are confusing

claims, and not always from the Iraqis. In the battle for Khafji, for example, it was originally claimed by the allies that there were "hundreds" of Iraqi casualties. But the final toll, as far as one can say, was 30 dead and 37 wounded.

The Iraqis have been claiming that Tammawik cruise missiles and bombs have laid waste residential areas of Baghdad. Television crews, stepping over piles of rubble, have interviewed Iraqi families who lost their homes. Yet in the hospital scenes, there seemed a strange uniformity about the injured presented to the world as proof of civilian suffering. Several children had identical bandages and

chatted about their experiences. There is no evidence that Saddam is faking these hospital scenes. Western journalists taken to the hospitals would see through such a trick. But if there had been direct hits on homes and blocks of flats on the scale claimed by the Iraqis, would not Saddam have wanted to publicise the most gruesome cases of civilian suffering?

The way the issue of casualties is being played at this stage is important because the number of dead and wounded on both sides is going to increase dramatically when the allied ground offensive begins. Casualty figures will be treated by allied commanders as operationally sensitive informa-

tion. There will no longer be daily updates on the number of allied soldiers killed because that would provide useful information to the Iraqis and risk undermining the political will of the 28 countries taking part in the allied coalition.

Saddam has been careful to avoid any mention of the damage suffered by his elite Republican Guard divisions, who remain crucial to his strategy of driving back the allies when they advance into Kuwait. They have been bombed by B52s and other strike aircraft for about ten days and nights. On one day, 76 B52s dropped 1,240 tons of bombs on their entrenched positions around Basra.

No allied commander has been able to say what effect this has had on the Iraqi troops, other than to surmise that, even if not killed or wounded, they would be suffering from lack of sleep, disorientation and poor morale. But it is possible that such a concentration of bombing has not caused many casualties. Only

Saddam knows the answer and he is not telling. The allied forces will know only when the ground offensive begins. It is salutary to recall, however, that after receiving similar treatment in the first world war, the Germans emerged from their trenches with plenty of fight left in them.

Past wars hold another lesson. The more lethal the weapons have become, the greater the dispersion of frontline troops on the battlefield. According to Trevor Dupuy, an American military historian, an army of 100,000 men in the Napoleonic wars occupied an area about 12 square miles. By the time of the 1972 Arab-Israeli war, the same number of men occupied more than 2,000 square miles. Saddam's Republican Guards are spread out so widely that even another three weeks of bombing may not produce the level of casualties which allied commanders would be seeking to inflict before advancing into Kuwait.

ISRAEL UNDER FIRE

Fantasy clouds West Bank perception of course of the war

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

FACT and fantasy have always been difficult to disentangle in the Middle East. More Iraqi Scud attacks on the occupied West Bank at the weekend had Israelis wondering if Iraq was for some devious reason trying to kill Palestinians, and bewildered Palestinians wildly accusing Israel of itself firing the missiles.

The Scud attacks on Saturday evening and again early yesterday came after three days of quiet. There were no casualties and little damage was done. The last four missiles launched, over a period of a week, have all landed in or near the West Bank. "This is encouraging," the newspaper *Hadashot* said yesterday. "Something in the Iraqi ground-to-ground missile system has cracked. Those who launched the missiles are clearly anxious to get rid of them. Residents of Nablus and Jenin on the West Bank definitely have reason to worry."

One theory is that the Scuds are

being knocked off course by high winds. General Shomron angrily denied that Israel was deliberately allowing the missiles to land in Arab areas and was failing to use the Patriot anti-missile system. "This is an evil lie," he said. "Whoever started such stories has no idea what a Patriot is or how it works. It is a load of nonsense."

But Palestinians, their bitterness increased by the prolonged curfew and their concept of the war based on Iraqi information published in Palestinian newspapers, firmly believe that the missiles are either letting the Israelis fall on the West Bank or are taking advantage of the fog of war to fire at Palestinian villages themselves.

Such is the Palestinian faith in propaganda put out by Baghdad that one woman in East Jerusalem claimed yesterday that half Tel Aviv had been razed by Iraqi missile salvos and "the Jews are hiding this".

Other stories circulating also feed this desperate desire among Palestinians for proof that the Israelis are being hurt. Palestinians are gratified by the Katyusha rocket attacks launched by the Palestine Liberation Organisation from southern Lebanon against northern Israel. But they are reluctant to hear that the rockets are only reaching Israel's "security zone" where the most likely victims are not Israelis but Shia Muslim villagers. According to United Nations sources, Amal, the Shia Muslim militia which tries to avoid provocations likely to lead to Israeli retaliation, is deeply angered by the apparently pointless PLO action. The real war, in

other words, is being accompanied by an Arab-Israeli war of perceptions. Israelis tend to share the Western judgment that Iraq's recent action at the Saudi border town of Khafji was a military disaster for Baghdad. But Zeev Schiff, the military commentator, noted yesterday in the newspaper *Haaretz* that Palestinians regard it as a famous psychological victory for Iraq.

Many Palestinians seem to believe stories, allegedly originating from Jordanian refugees, that "Hebrew-speaking" US commandos have been operating in western Iraq, ignoring the fact that even if US special units were blowing up Iraqi airfields, the last language they would be likely to speak is Hebrew. The fact that Saudi troops took the brunt of the fighting at Khafji does not impress Palestinians, who have no time for Saudi or Gulf Arabs.

As General Freddie Zach, Israel's deputy co-ordinator in the occupied territories, says: "It seems Palestinians still support Saddam Hussein despite the hardships and setbacks."

The United Nations Relief Works Agency said it had begun emergency food distribution to Palestinians to alleviate the "devastating effect" of the two weeks of curfew. But Palestinians said they were glad to suffer for Iraq, and they believed that Saddam would somehow carry out his threat to use a secret weapon to "scorch half of Israel".

"If I die too, I will be glad to be a martyr," a young Palestinian said. This dispatch is based on material passed for publication by the Israeli censor.



Prepared for attack: Blacher, left, and his brothers, Gideon and Matias, showing off their gas-mask kits in Tel Aviv. The boys take their kits everywhere in case of a chemical attack on Israel

Anger over cabinet addition

Jerusalem — Palestinians and Israeli moderates reacted with anger and dismay yesterday to the inclusion in the Israeli cabinet of Rehavam Zeevi, the leader of the far right Moleket party that favours the deportation or "transfer" of the 1.75 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip (Richard Owen writes).

Israeli Liberals said the move would rob the country of much of the credit it had built up since the Gulf war began, and would give rise to the suspicion that transfer would be part of any post-war Israeli peace plan.

An Israeli judge yesterday reduced the detention of Sari Nusseibeh, the leading Palestinian intellectual accused of spying for Iraq, from six months to three. Jonathan Kuttab, Mr Nusseibeh's lawyer, said the Jerusalem district court had ordered the reduction after studying a police file that neither Mr Nusseibeh nor Mr Kuttab was allowed to see. Mr Nusseibeh's friends regard the charge as absurd. This dispatch is based on material passed for publication by the Israeli censor.

Pakistan protest

Karachi — Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister, faces a serious threat to his survival. Twenty-five political parties, including members of the 11-party ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance, which met in Lahore on Saturday, have called for a national strike on February 10 to protest against the allied forces' attack on Iraq.

Jordan oil deal

Amman — A Jordanian government delegation left for Damascus yesterday to complete arrangements for the purchase of Syrian oil to replace imports from Iraq affected by allied bombing. Syria is expected to sell oil at the international market price which is currently around \$4 a barrel more expensive than the rate Jordan was paying for Iraqi oil.

Forty complaints

The new Broadcasting Standards Council will hear 40 complaints about television and radio coverage of the Gulf war when it sits for the first time today. The council, which became a statutory body at the beginning of the year, cannot censor broadcasters or stop programmes but it can insist that its adjudications are broadcast or published as advertisements.



SADDAM'S FAMILY

A tale of patronage, power and wealth

By HAZEL TEHRIMAN

THE case of President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel al-Majid, who is expected to face charges of bribing American banking officials to extend \$3 billion (nearly £1.5 billion) in improper loans to Iraq, has focused attention on the Iraqi leader's family.

During the past two years Saddam has reduced his close circle of advisers to the male members of his immediate family, turning the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's ruling body, into a rubber-stamp body.

The most powerful members of his family are the following: Hussein Kamel al-Majid, son-in-law and distant cousin. He is in his early 30s and began his political career as one of Saddam's bodyguards. As minister of industry and military industrialisation, Kamel has organised industrial espionage in the West to acquire chemical and nuclear weapons. He is alleged to have bribed American

officials. He is also minister of petroleum and governor of Kuwait.

Ali Hassan al-Majid, a paternal first cousin, is known as "the gasser" for supervising the gas attack on the Kurdish city of Halabja in March 1988. He is 49 and described as "the ugliest face of Saddam". A former sergeant in the army, he obtained a first class degree in military science from the Al-Balr university in 1978, when Saddam was vice-president.

Barzan Takriti, a half-brother, is now Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations at Geneva. His unruly behaviour inside the Baath party has caused many instances of embarrassment for Saddam. Uday Saddam Hussein, aged 30, the eldest son and chairman of the Iraqi Olympics Committee. In 1989 he was facing trial for the murder of Saddam's food taster, but was later released "by popular demand".

Bombers inspire an ode to airmen

FROM LIN JENKINS WITH THE RAF IN THE GULF

A DELUGE of unsolicited mail from former girlfriends, old schoolmates, former servicemen and strangers is helping to pass the hours between sorties and exercise the writing talents of the airmen at the largest RAF detachment in the Gulf.

Many get replies and, according to Wing Commander John Broadbent, none has so much hinted at criticism. "It is terrific for morale. Some have even enclosed money saying buy the lads a drink."

In another, a 19-year-old girl sent a load of magazines, including one about steam trains, unaware that one of our pilots is a train nut.

When a poem from a former bomber and flight sergeant, Jasper Miles, arrived from Thetford, Norfolk, Flight Lieutenant Paddy Teakme, a Tornado navigator from 15th Squadron replied saying: "It is fantastic to realise that some people go to such trouble, it is only fair to try to reply, although

my effort is not nearly so good." The poem from Mr Miles: You who fly Tornados from off Maharaj's Sands We think you are doing marvelous, we think you're doing grand; You made us proud we're British, sons of that old breed.

Which down the years of history, provides when comes the need, Callant men, our nation's pride, To stand like a Kohala or like you, go in low.

Yes, very low, and nightly! And take the lethal hail To leave the targets useless as it passes near your tail.

It's doubtful if you notice on your nocturnal ride That there's a vast armada, flying at your side If you could use your inner sight, I'm sure you'd see Planes that flew before you, e'en in the RFC The Blenheims and the Battles which also face the muck

Who, all too often, saw their mates running out of luck, Lumbering old Whitleys, Wimpies, Hallers, Lancs Assorted wood Mosquitos, some with long range tanks And see those queer old biplanes that know that land so well?

They flew it all between the wars, and have their tales to tell So you in those Tornados? You'll never fly alone! Old bomber boys are with you! They make a mighty drone And as you fly your sorties, let no one dare deride.

All who are proud they're British in thought are by your side FS: Forget old chairborne generals, in dotage, slightly barmy, They probably attained that rank whilst in the Sally army.

The reply sent: Our friend is the night It hinders their sight Though their guns still fire We never shall tire In our search for military might.

We have all felt fear When the guns come near But we'll not blame you Our aim will be true From the aircraft we hold so dear.

For years we've been told Of heroes of old We now feel proud too To join in your 'Jew' Of brothers who dared to be bold. It's comfort to know You support us so On missions each night It helps us make light Of worries we feel such don't show.

We feel a strong bond And feel very fond Of air crew past and present Who've all loved to fly Through the clouds, blue skies and beyond.

To those who have felt We still toll the bell And those that now fall We will miss them all And meet in heaven not hell.

CHEMICAL WARFARE

Allied defences against gases and diseases

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TROOPS facing an Iraqi chemical warfare attack will be shielded by protective clothing, detection devices and do-it-yourself syringes that inject antidotes.

The Iraqis are most likely to use nerve agents and mustard gas, but their arsenal may include lewisite, similar to mustard gas, hydrogen cyanide, and anthrax and plague bacteria. Against these, the allied forces are equipped with NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) suits and masks. The British version of the suit is regarded as the best of its kind.

Developed at the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down, Wiltshire, it gives protection for at least 24 hours. The suit, consisting of trousers and a smock with a close-fitting elasticated hood, has two layers and is worn over standard combat clothing.

The outer layer is flame-resistant nylon and acrylic, and the inner is impregnated with charcoal and fire-retardant chemicals. Rubber gloves and overboots offer similar protection. The materials can be quickly decontaminated.

The masks have a combination of charcoal filters and chromium or copper elements to neutralise gases. The filters are contained in a canister that can be quickly replaced. The masks can be doctored in less than ten seconds.

Soldiers are issued with drug tablets to be taken before exposure to nerve agents, and carry auto-injection devices containing rapidly acting antidotes and anti-convulsants.

Nerve agents pose the deadliest threat. Odourless and colourless, they can be inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through the skin, and disrupt the body's nervous system by inhibiting natural enzymes in nerve and muscle junctions.

As a result, the body goes into spasms and convulsions. Death comes within minutes from respiratory failure and suffocation. The early symptoms of nerve-gas poisoning include a running nose, difficulty in breathing, contraction of the pupils, drooling, sweating and vomiting.

The Iraqis are believed to have some or all of the four main nerve agents, Tabun, Sarin, Soman and VX. The most effective drug against them is pyridostigmine, taken before exposure, which protects a natural store of the en-

zymes that the agents attack and aids recovery. Three other drugs, atropine, oxime and diazepam, are contained in large pen-shaped hypodermics, such as MultiPens, which the soldier jabs into a thigh muscle. The first two reactivate the blocked enzymes, and the third is an anti-convulsant.

Mustard gas, or sulphur mustard, evokes images of the first world war. Despite its lethal reputation, it killed only about two per cent of its victims, but blinded and burned countless thousands of others.

Unprotected soldiers would suffer severe skin blisters and damage to the eyes and throat. If inhaled, the vapour can cause fatal injury to the lungs or bone marrow. Severely affected victims may have to be put on ventilators to assist their breathing, and will need antibiotics and pain-killers.

Lewisite, containing arsenic, is more deadly, but according to British defence ministry and health department sources, is unlikely to be effective in the daytime heat of the Middle East. Its effects are very similar to those of mustard gas, but there is a specific treatment for it. Diethylenetriamine, a drug that can be injected or used in a cream or in eye drops, helps to rid the body of the poison.

Hydrogen cyanide kills by rapidly attacking the respiratory system and depriving cells of the ability to use oxygen. Drug treatment has to be given soon after exposure.

Anthrax is one of the most potentially lethal biological weapons. Some Western intelligence experts believe Iraq has enough to infect a large area with microscopic spores of anthrax bacteria spread by shells, bombs or rockets.

Anthrax is invariably fatal within 48 hours. Troops can be vaccinated against it, but immunisation requires two booster injections over four weeks.

Plague is a bacterial threat taken seriously by military officers in the Gulf. Bubonic plague is spread by fleas from infected rats, but as a biological weapon it would be packaged as pneumonic plague, spread by tiny droplets in the air. If inhaled, the bacterium, called *Yersinia pestis*, attacks the lungs, and is fatal unless treated quickly. Vaccines and antibiotics are available.

ALLIED FORCES

SORTIES: More than 41,000 allied air missions flown since war began.

LOSSES: A B52 bomber, based at Diego Garcia, crashed into the Indian Ocean when returning from a mission on Saturday. Three crew were rescued. Three are missing. Two US aircraft were reported lost in combat over the weekend and one American was killed in action. Officials reported 12 deaths of US troops since the start of the war. Some 32 servicemen were missing in action, including 23 Americans, eight British, and one Italian. 12 allied prisoners of war were taken by the Iraqis. Some 28 allied planes lost: 22 in combat, 15 American, five British, one Kuwaiti, one Italian. Non-combat losses: 10 American deaths. An additional 105 Americans listed as non-combat deaths in Operation Desert Shield before the war. Six planes, three American helicopters lost.

IRAQI FORCES CLAIMS: Iraq said it launched a new missile attack against Israel in retaliation for allied air raids and "to avenge Arab blood (spilled) in Iraq and Palestine."

Baghdad radio, quoting a military spokesman, said allied planes had carried out 17 more air raids against Iraq from Saudi Arabia and Turkey. It said Iraq shot down one enemy plane. Iraq says it has shot down more than 260 planes and missiles in the war.

The Iraqi New Agency said that three US B-52 bombers arrived in Turkey from London to join the assault on Iraq. A Turkish foreign ministry spokesman denied there were any B-52s in the country. In another report, INA claimed that Qatari forces suffered heavy losses in "the recent battles in the Gulf region."

ALLIED WAR AIMS

John Major said: "We are determined to give our forces every ounce of support to ensure Iraq is defeated and the United Nations Security Council's resolutions are implemented in full."

President Bush said: "Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq but the liberation of Kuwait."

CLAIMS: Allied planes continue to bombard Iraqi positions, harder than ever, say reports. Probing attacks continue across

BASRA BOMBING

City pays high price in allied air raids

From Edward Gorman in Amman

GRAPHIC descriptions of the effects of allied bombing given by Indian refugees yesterday suggest the Iraqi southern city of Basra is among those paying the highest price in President Saddam Hussein's "mother of battles".

Educated English-speaking Indians who fled the city last Wednesday, described how Basra has been relentlessly pounded by allied bombers. They say that civilian casualties are becoming increasingly common, the infrastructure is destroyed, and food is scarce.

Basra has been targeted because of its strategic value on the main resupply routes into Kuwait, because numerous grain and ammunition warehouses are located nearby, and because it is close to remnants of the elite Republican Guard.

Anil Kumar Bansur, a civil engineer in his forties, working on housing projects for an Indian-owned construction company in Basra, said initial

raids were targeted exclusively at strategic sites, but as the bombing intensified it became less accurate and civilian areas were hit.

"People are very frightened because in civilian areas there have been at least 40 or 50 attacks with heavy and small bombs," Mr Bansur said. "Now Basra is under clouds of smoke. In the last three or four days we were there, we did not see sunshine — only clouds of smoke."

On one night 12 bombs landed near the school where Mr Bansur and his fellow Indian workers were taking shelter.

"Around our house there was heavy bombardment. They were bombing every 15 minutes," Mr Bansur said. "Even I saw so many bombs dropping. Stones and smoke were going up like the blasting of a volcano."

Mr Bansur was among several Indians interviewed at Hail 1 refugee camp about an hour's drive east of Amman, who saw a mosque which had been hit. They heard later that 15 people who were asleep inside were killed.

He said the sight of the dismembered bodies of civilians in rubble was common. "I have seen at least 25 dead bodies," he said.

"After the bombing they were moving debris with diggers (excavators), dropping it into some other place. When it was dropped, you could see dead bodies, some legs, some heads, many things. You could not identify which arm belonged to which body."

The manager of a Fumjab-based construction company said he had witnessed similar scenes. "I have seen people under debris — they are removed with shovels (excavators)," he said.

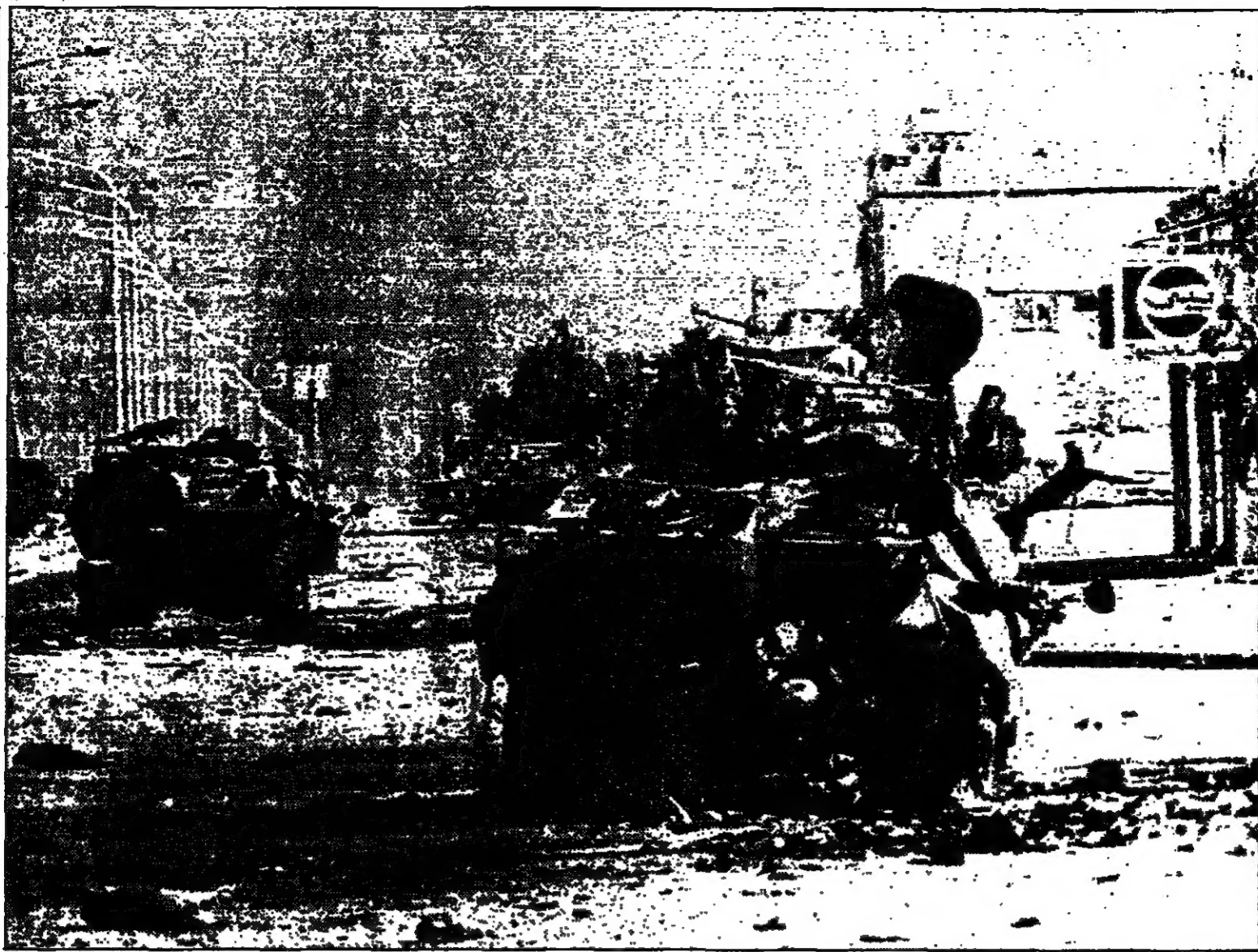
The Indians believed all the main communication centres, government buildings, grain and ammunition warehouses and some oil installations and storage depots had been hit.

They estimated that half the population had left the city to seek the safety of the desert and those remaining were becoming ever more desperate. "Almost all the shops were permanently closed. Many young people came to me. They were asking me for just one bit of *khubz* (bread) — they were asking like that," Mr Bansur said.

His description of Basra is incomplete and confused but Mr Bansur seemed an honest observer with no political axe to grind, unlike many Palestinian or Jordanian evacuees who have crossed the border in recent days.

The dispatch was written by INA's correspondent in Nicosia, Ahmed Sulaiman, who said his information had come from "diplomats in Beirut who had been in Damascus and saw the pilots there on January 30". Mr Sulaiman said Syria's denial was not convincing.

Given the welter of disinformation, it remained possible the Iraqi report was aimed at discrediting Syria as an Arab neighbour willing to give safe haven to pilots. Baghdad insists are war criminals with missions to hit civilian targets.



End of the road: wrecked and abandoned Iraqi armoured vehicles partly blocking a street in the small Saudi town of Khafji, which has been almost entirely recaptured by the allied forces after being occupied by Saddam's troops for two days last week

Tehran prepares a peace initiative

By HAZRIR TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran is expected today to announce an initiative to end the Gulf war by persuading Iraq to leave Kuwait. Government sources said the initiative, which would be the result of many hours of talks between Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani and a number of foreign envoys, including Iraq's deputy foreign minister, over the weekend, would go beyond merely appealing to the Iraqi leader to evacuate Kuwait in order to halt the further destruction of his country.

A commentator in the Iranian capital said: "Rafsanjani is now committing himself to doing something, and he normally does not undertake such commitments without being reasonably sure in advance of his success". Other watchers of Iranian politics were more sceptical.

On Saturday, President Rafsanjani received Iraq's deputy prime minister, Saadoun Hammadi, one of the most senior figures in the hierarchy of the Baath Party in Baghdad. He carried a letter from President Saddam Hussein and was given the Iranian president's reply to take back to Baghdad. Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani also received envoys from France, Algeria and Yemen, and had a long phone conversation with Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistan's president. Yesterday, Kuwait's minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed al-Ahmed, was due in Tehran with a letter from the exiled emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah.

No details were published in Tehran of the letters and messages, and it is not clear what pressure Iraq could bring to bear on Saddam to end his intransigence over Kuwait.

President Rafsanjani, who is under some pressure from Iranian Muslim extremists to incline towards Iraq, has described any ending of his country's declared neutrality as "suicidal".

Observers in Tehran yesterday dismissed any possibility that, under pressure from the Muslim radicals, the Iranian government might appreciably incline itself towards Iraq.

PILOT PUZZLE

Airmen 'aided by Syrians'

From Michael Theodorou in Nicosia

IRAQI claimed yesterday that seven American pilots whose planes had been hit by "heroic Iraqi anti-aircraft fire" had parachuted to safety in Syria where they were handed over to the United States embassy in Damascus.

A United States embassy spokesman in Damascus, Bill Murphy, said the report was "untrue" and the official Syrian news agency, insisting the report was "completely fabricated", said there were no American pilots in Syria.

The Iraqi report followed a claim by a refugee, arriving in Jordan from Baghdad last week, who said several English-speaking men had come ashore another refugee's car at gunpoint and sped off into the desert. There was speculation they could have been allied pilots.

Baghdad radio, broadcasting a report by the official Iraqi news agency INA, said Syria had released seven American pilots to the US embassy in the "past two days". It said their planes had been shot down "during their air raids on residential areas in Iraq". The "killer pilots were able to land safely on Syrian territory by parachute".

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IRAQI CHEMICALS

British troops get plague vaccine

From Christopher Walker in Saudi Arabia

INTELLIGENCE reports about Iraq's readiness to use chemical and biological warfare are being taken so seriously that the British Army has decided to vaccinate all frontline and potential frontline troops against the plague.

The use of the vaccine came as Pentagon sources reported that President Saddam Hussein had left local commanders in Kuwait to decide when to use chemical and biological weapons.

The plague jobs, the first in a three-stage immunisation course against one of the world's most contagious diseases, have added a macabre touch of the Middle Ages to a high-tech war.

"We started the course late last week after all the men had been given a briefing on the potential dangers. The inoculations are voluntary, but only a small number refused," said Colonel Tish Leung-Morton, an army doctor in charge of a field ambulance unit. She also offered to provide plague jabs to a group of newsmen.

According to the doctor, the main threat was from plague spread by droplets under cover of darkness (when the deadly bacteria perform best).

Doctors admit that the plague jabs have not been tried on a wide scale although they are considered safe. Some 10 to 15 cases of plague occur in America every year, but as a disease it is normally restricted to more remote parts of the Third World. Treatment by antibiotics is possible, but must be very swift.

The growing allied fears about the possibility of a chemical and biological weapons campaign are understood to be based on intelligence reports, including information from Iraqis.

SAUDI ARABIA

Colonel spices his words of wisdom with a little rugby

From Philip Jacobson with the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Saudi Desert

A SAND storm was beginning to blow as we set off to find the Royal Scots Dragon Guards drawn up in a hollow square, the skirt of the regiment's three bagpipers faintly heard above the wind.

More than four hundred men were waiting for their colonel. It was the first time the bulk of the regiment had been assembled since Christmas, and every man knew it was probably the last time before they go into battle.

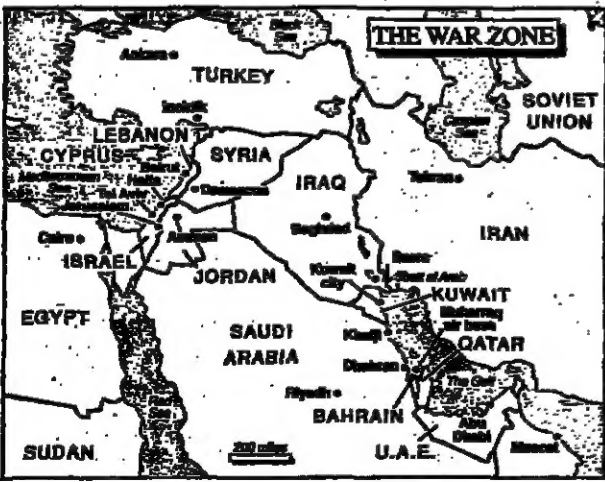
Colonel John Sharples' first news, for the handful of men who did not already know it, was of Scotland's crushing

rugby victory over Wales on Saturday. He moved on to the new pay scale for the army: "I think you can safely assume this has something to do with our presence out here." The men smiled, but were soon muttering when they realised that rises in living costs would eat into their new pay.

The real purpose of the colonel's address soon became apparent: he had come to tell his regiment how much he trusted them to do their duty if and when the day to fight should arrive, how much faith in them their families, friends and admirers had expressed in

letters from home, how he knew that relentless training and superb equipment would prevail on the field of combat.

"I think we are on the verge of meeting the most momentous experience of our lives. Think about the enemy by all means," he said, "think about the punishment his troops are absorbing. But never, ever, allow yourself to get cocky about the Iraqis out there, because they have fought before, and they are used to deprivation, which frankly we are not. Mistakes and sloppiness on the battlefield will kill," he said.



FRONTLINE NOTEBOOK

Spirit of Catch 22 soldiers on

In an incident which echoes Joseph Heller's novel *Catch 22*, but which some officers fear might have sinister overtones, at least fifty US military vehicles have disappeared at night from an army compound near allied front lines.

One theory is that, in an operation of which Yossarian, the hero of *Catch 22*, and his colleagues would have been proud, the vehicles have been spirited away by members of their own units for use as spare parts. "The way I look at it, this is cannibalisation pure and simple," an intelligence officer said.

But another, more disturbing theory is that the stolen gear could be used in guerrilla assaults on American bases. Intelligence reports to commanders last week warned that more than a dozen Palestinian terrorists were operating in the sector occupied by the 1st Armoured Division.

Knight in armour once rode into battle bearing their ladies' favours, a scarf or ribbon, tied to their lances. The technology may have changed, but in the modern Arabian conflict the principle has not. In the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division, some soldiers are tucking underwear

sent by their wives or girlfriends into their helmets as good-luck charms. Medical Sergeant Sal Garcia Jr, aged 24, from Norwalk, California, doffed his helmet the other day, glanced about furtively and then pulled a pair of perfume-scented knickers from his bulletproof helmet.

"When I put my helmet on I think of her because of the perfume," he said. "Her" is a woman named Kelly who

It'll be a brief engagement



Garcia met just a month before he left for Saudi Arabia in August. He says the garment will bring him luck when he goes into battle and remind him that someone is waiting for him back home.

Others say they plan to follow Sergeant Garcia's example. One said he spent two months persuading his wife to send him some of her underwear. She finally relented, but now he is embarrassed each time he has to wash them. Sergeant Christopher Bolner of Lexington, Kentucky, on the other hand, said he sent his girlfriend's black knickers back because the constant reminder of her proved too much for him. "I was going nuts," he said.

President Saddam Hussein is a "distraught" man who is being treated with tranquillisers by three doctors, General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the US Gulf force, said in an interview with *US News and World Report* magazine. "We have several reports that Saddam is a very distraught man, that he has three doctors treating him with tranquillisers, which may say something about his mental state," he said. Compiled from pool reports.

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41	10-23	71	10-15
42	10-22	72	10-14
43	10-21	73	10-13
44-49	10-20	77	10-12
50	10-19	78	10-11
51	10-18	79	10

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(b) Have you ever received, or have you any reason for expecting to receive, any counselling, medical advice, treatment or tests, including blood tests, in connection with AIDS, Hepatitis or any sexually transmitted disease?

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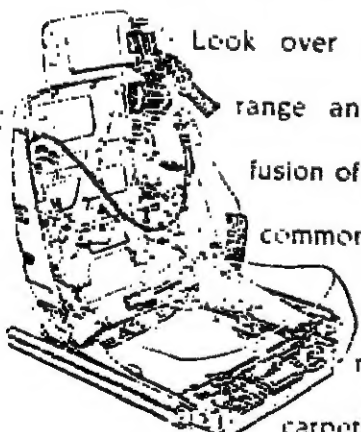
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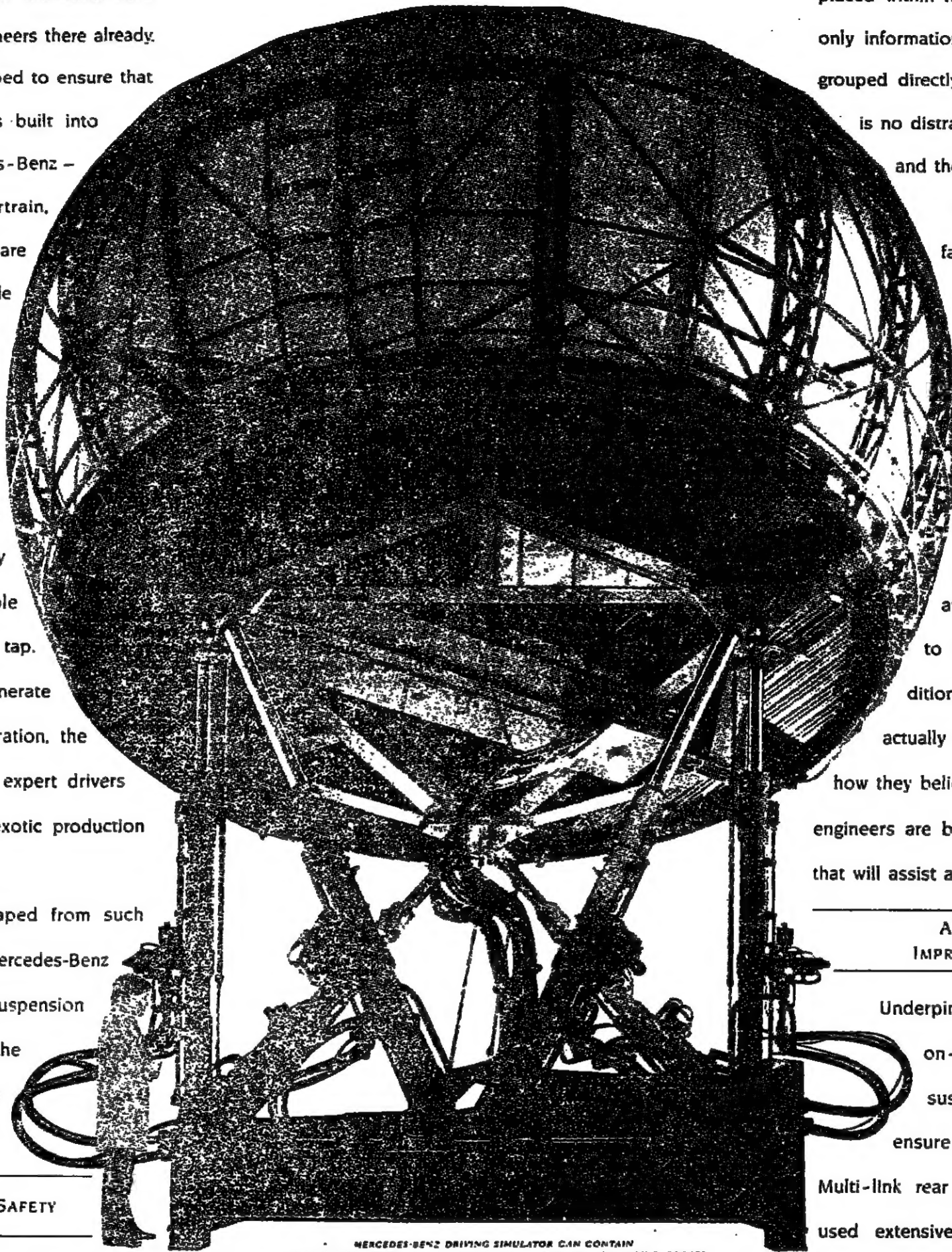
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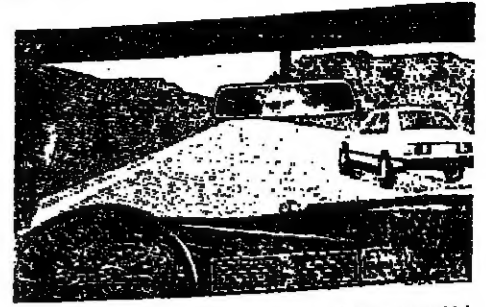
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Once in the driver's seat, your hands fall onto an ergonomically satisfying steering wheel. And on the move, the power-steering assistance varies subtly to complement your own inputs at all speeds, and to ensure maximum feedback sensitivity - precision without exertion - another vital safety and comfort bonus. Yet another bonus is the simulator's ability to test driver reaction to stressful conditions. By learning how human beings actually react in emergencies, as opposed to how they believe they would react, Mercedes-Benz engineers are better placed to design car controls that will assist accident avoidance.

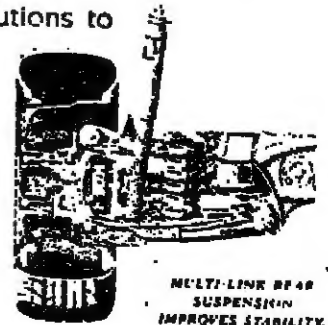
ADVANCED SUSPENSION IMPROVES HANDLING FINESSE

Underpinning the assured and reassuring on-road behaviour of all models, are suspension systems engineered to ensure maximum tyre contact and grip. Multi-link rear suspension, for instance, is now used extensively. This Mercedes-Benz invention disciplines self-steering and toe-in tendencies that the rear wheels of all cars are prone to under extreme conditions.

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Making the driver's environment as safe and comfortable as it is stimulating, is an ideal that Mercedes-Benz engineers continue to try to perfect as they re-enter, again and again, the unique world of their driving simulator in search of answers that only it is equipped to give.



MULTI-LINK REAR SUSPENSION IMPROVES STABILITY.

WESTERN AIMS

Hurd wants curb on sales of arms to Middle East

By MICHAEL BRYNOR, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE West must bring stability to the Middle East after the war by curbing the massive flow of arms to the area, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said at the weekend.

"Above all we must put a choke on components which can be used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction," he told a Conservative dinner in Leicestershire on Saturday. These restraints would have to be "effectively and vigorously policed".

He said the Middle East was in danger of descending into a terrible arms race, including the spread of weapons of mass destruction. "It is profoundly dangerous for world peace for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons to proliferate. While enabling the Gulf states to defend themselves, the West must exercise restraint

in the supply of armaments to the region."

Mr Hurd did not spell out how such restraint was to be enforced, or what constituted a reasonable flow of arms to ensure the legitimate security of Gulf states. However, in a radio interview on *The World this Weekend* he said yesterday priority must be given to stopping the export of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. That was where the will to deal with the problem was greatest.

He said a voluntary cut in the supply of arms would not prevent the development of weapons of mass destruction; it would only delay them. The West must seek to remove the motivation for their possession. Improved security structures in the Gulf and progress on the Arab-Israeli

conflict might create conditions in which a regional arms initiative could succeed.

Mr Hurd told the Conservative Association in Basingstoke that the first task when peace was restored would be the reconstruction of Kuwait. "In this, I believe, Britain will have a significant part to play. But in parallel with this, the countries of the Gulf, helped as necessary by their allies, will need to devise new structures to bolster their security."

The invasion of Kuwait had shown the need for a strong association among the Gulf states. In his radio interview the foreign secretary said that Saudi Arabia was the natural leader of a strengthened Gulf Co-operation Council. Their collective security could include a role for other Muslim countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Pakistan.

In return, he said, the Gulf states would use their wealth to promote the economic stability of populous states with no large oil income. Greater equity in the distribution of wealth would help the Middle East.

But Mr Hurd said it was unrealistic and undesirable to try to put the clock back. "We do not want to revive a permanent military presence east of Suez. With our allies we are naturally prepared to respond to suggestions about how best we can help to underpin the peace. This might include maintaining pre-positioned equipment, aircraft or a naval presence. But this should be a contribution to, rather than the cornerstone of, a coherent security structure in the area."

Mr Hurd rejected any linkage with the Gulf war. But he said there was an urgent need to return with vigour to the Arab-Israeli issue.

Mr Hurd firmly distanced himself from remarks by Henry Catto, the American ambassador to Britain, that Iraq could not be trusted to keep the fleeing Iraqi planes until the war was over. Mr Catto called the Iranians "practised if not talented liars". He said on television: "I do not know if I can trust them as far as I can throw them."

● Critical Hurd: The government's proposals for a peace-keeping role for British forces in the Gulf after victory in the war against Iraq were sharply criticised yesterday as a "new imperialism" by Edward Heath (Nicholas Wood writes).

The former Conservative prime minister said that the region's long-term peace and security was a matter for the Arab League and the United Nations and Britain should play no military role.

"This is the new imperialism, and I am against the new imperialism. It is not our job to go throwing our forces around the world and saying 'This is an evil man and so on,'" he said on BBC television's *On the Record*.

During an acrimonious four-hour debate on Friday, left-wingers demanded a ceasefire and the withdrawal of allied troops from the Gulf. Yesterday a spokesman for the Labour party said: "Labour has some of the worst pockets of deprivation in Britain, and we think councillors should be concentrating their minds on countering it."

The party's embarrassment is likely to be prolonged this week by two further anti-war debates. Bernie Grant, the black Labour MP for Tottenham, will lead a public meeting of a group calling itself Black People Against War in the Gulf. Later this week left-wingers in the Transport and General Workers' Union will propose an immediate ceasefire.

Ronald Butt, page 10
Leading article, page 11

LABOUR DIVISIONS

Challenge over war objectives

By KERRY GILL

A GROUP of Scottish Labour MPs and trade unionists will bring pressure on the party leadership this week to dissociate itself from the aim of dismantling the Iraqi war machine and the possibility of toppling President Saddam Hussein from power.

It emerged yesterday that the group, known as Scottish Labour Against War in the Gulf, held a secret meeting in Glasgow at which members pledged opposition to any military action against Iraq after Saddam withdraws from Kuwait.

"Our aim is to rally forces throughout the Labour party who are opposed to the war. We want to try to pressurise the party to bring the war to an end through a negotiated settlement," said one of the group's founder members, John McAllion, the MP for Dundee East.

Mr McAllion will second a motion on Wednesday at a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party calling for the war to be limited to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Mr McAllion said the group was backed by members from the left and right of the party, although some Scottish Labour MPs claimed they

knew nothing about its formation. Tony Worthington, MP for Clydebank and Milngavie, said it was the first he had heard of it. Norman Hogg, MP for Cumberland and Kilsyth, said: "I have never heard of this."

George Foulkes, MP for Carrick, Camnock and Don Valley, said: "We know the people who are in favour of a ceasefire, but we were all anxious to avoid a war. We would all have liked to see sanctions carry on for much longer." However, Mr Foulkes said he had no doubt that the motion by Neil Kinnock and Gerald Kaufman, reiterating the party's stance declared last week, would be heavily backed.

● Council attack: The Labour-controlled local authority of Lambeth in south London was condemned yesterday by its own party for passing an anti-Gulf war motion which declared that "patriotic and pro-war hysteria" in Britain amounted to racism (Michael Horsnell writes).

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Foulkes: wanted more time for sanctions

TERRORISM FEARS

Carnivals toned down from Rio to Venice

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FROM Venice to Rio the carnival is not exactly over. But, because of the Gulf war, the spectre of terrorism lurks behind the mask of pleasure at some of the most famous revels on the international calendar.

Since the carnival was revived a decade ago, Venice's streets at this time of year have been thronged with people in masks and fancy dress. But because of war in the Gulf, the authorities became nervous that such disguises could provide cover for terrorists.

Then, to everybody's surprise, it was discovered that the wearing of masks in public places had been outlawed by Mussolini in 1931 and the ordinance appeared still to be on the statute book. A meeting of provincial and local government chiefs agreed last week to revive the long-forgotten measure. The interior ministry has yet to approve the ban.

But the threat was greeted with dismay by the city's 150 mask-makers. Stefano Falchetta, director of the Venice hoteliers' association, whose members' bookings were already

down by at least 50 per cent, said that many more foreigners were cancelling after hearing that masks would be forbidden.

In Rio de Janeiro, a carnival ball called One Night in Baghdad is having its name changed after 30 years. The costume party is now known as The Mount Lebanon Gate Ball.

The Mount Lebanon Club took the decision to change the name as "an act of solidarity towards the suffering of the war. This year there is no room for joking," said the club's president, Salomao Saadi, a Brazilian of Lebanese descent.

However, some of the Tuesday night's Mount Lebanon party-goers are likely to be hiding behind Saddam Hussein masks, up to 10,000 of which were rushed into production before the carnival by Armando Valles, an entrepreneur.

According to the Brazilian Association of the Hotel Industry, the number of tourists visiting Rio for the carnival is likely to be down by some 20 per cent. This year it is not the city's

violent image which has affected hotel bookings, but the Gulf war and the fear of terrorist attacks in the air.

Another palace of pleasure, the Folies Bergere in Paris, said yesterday it was closing for two weeks because of a dearth of reservations for February amid fears of terrorism. Several carnivals were cancelled across France.

A spokesman for the Parisian nightspot said business had held up reasonably in January but the lack of custom this month meant the theatre could not cover the cost of staying open.

In Nice, Honoré Ballet, the mayor, said he was cancelling the annual carnival at the resort because it was "morally unacceptable to organise parties and rejoicing" during wartime.

He said security for the extravaganza would have been inadequate because too many police had been diverted elsewhere to guard against terrorism.

A carnival at Marseilles and a carnival-time bullfight at the ancient Roman town of Nîmes were also cancelled.



Army deserter Dr Yolande Huet-Vaughn, who refused to go to the Gulf, giving a peace sign as she leaves a rally in a Kansas City church at the weekend. The doctor, a reserve captain aged 39, later gave herself up

WAR OPPONENTS

Churchmen to form peace organisation

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR churchmen are expected to form a Christian organisation today to campaign for an end to the Gulf war.

Leaders of Christian peace organisations are meeting in London this afternoon to vote on a proposal to form the Christian Coalition for Peace in the Gulf. The move is supported by leading

Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist and Methodist clergy and follows a letter signed by Christian opponents of the war delivered to Downing Street last week.

Barbara Eggleston, of Christian CND, said the new body will be formed at today's meeting of the Christian Peace Co-ordinating Committee, a liaison body for organisations such as Pax Christi, Clergy Against Nuclear Arms, the Quakers and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. "Groups and individuals

will be opposed to the war but our interests will be wider. We will be seeking to promote a future just peace," she said.

● BONN: Thirty out of 170 members of a Bundeswehr anti-aircraft battery being sent to defend an air base in Turkey have refused to go for reasons of conscience, their lawyer announced at the weekend. The 30 said they had joined the armed forces in the belief that they would never have to fight.

SECURITY

Airlines warned of bomb attack

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AIRLINES and airports round the world have been given their first specific warning of a possible terrorist attack with a call to keep watch for an attempt at a Lockerbie-style bombing using a Samsonite suitcase concealing explosives and a timer.

The detailed warning was issued from Washington and London less than a week after the start of the Gulf war in an urgent message and then followed by further details in a letter. The warning, understood to be based on intelligence from Washington, is being taken seriously and is thought to be based on good information.

The case is thought to be medium sized, may be one of several colours, including brown, and hold about four to five pounds of plastic explosive. This might be hidden in a false compartment in the lining of the case. Samsonite cases have long been a popular choice for drug smugglers because hidden compartments can be built into them. A Samsonite was used to bring down Pan Am flight 103 killing 270. The Pan Am bomb was hidden inside a radio-cassette.

Several Palestinian groups now allied to Iraq have the capability for attacks on airliners.

Bernard Levin, page 10

Sending mail to Forces in the Gulf.

YOU CAN SEND PARCELS BY AIR AT A GREATLY REDUCED RATE TO BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE (BFPO) ADDRESSES IN THE GULF.

ECONOMY PARCEL SERVICE

This is available at all post offices throughout the country. Prices start at £2 for the first kilogramme (compared with up to £10.70 for the standard BFPO service to the Gulf, which has now been suspended.) Prices go up to £5 for the maximum weight of 10 kilogrammes.

Ask for THE BFPO ECONOMY PARCEL SERVICE, and mark your parcels "BFPO Economy Service".

If customers want more information on Parcelforce International Services to the Gulf using BFPO numbers, there is a special national enquiry hotline number, free of charge, on 0800 224466.

IF YOU WANT TO SEND A LETTER THERE IS A CHOICE OF SERVICE, DEPENDING ON WHAT YOU WANT TO SEND.

FORCES FREE AEROGRAMMES ("BLUEYS")

These are available free of charge at post offices and no stamp is needed for BFPO addresses in the Gulf. Aerogrammes are thin A4 sheets of blue airmail paper, which can be written on both sides, and are then folded to envelope size for posting.

Write "HM Forces Gulf" on the top right hand corner.

SPECIAL LETTER RATE

For customers who want to send even longer messages, or include an enclosure inside a normal envelope, there are BFPO reduced letter rates. For example 22p for airmail items of up to 40 grammes to the Gulf.

ADDRESSES

The way to address all your mail is to include the number, rank and name, sub unit/unit or ship and BFPO number.

THE POST OFFICE

Tories jolted by mortgage arrears and lack of jobs

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government came under renewed pressure to cut interest rates yesterday with the release of job vacancy figures showing that the recession is biting deeply into the Tory heartlands of southern England. Conservative gloom was compounded by separate data on mortgage arrears underlining the "white collar" nature of the downturn.

A Labour survey of unfilled posts at Jobcentres disclosed that London, East Anglia and the South-East had the biggest falls over the past year. Middle-class jobs in the managerial, clerical and sales sectors are among the hardest hit, in contrast to the last slump ten years ago.

Gordon Brown, the opposition trade and industry spokesman, widened the attack on the government's economic policies by accusing ministers of adding to the pressures on firms struggling with an interest rate bill of £30 billion a year. They were planning to reduce state support for research and development by 40 per cent over the next two years. "As 500 companies go to the wall every week, ministers are imposing the double burden of cuts in research support vital to our long-term prosperity," he said.

Meanwhile, Nationwide Anglia, the second biggest building society, disclosed that one in ten borrowers is in arrears or has renegotiated payments. Repossessions last year reached a record 40,000, nearly twice the previous record of 1987, according to figures to be released by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

A spokesman for the Building Societies Association said yesterday: "I don't think we can say that we have peaked yet. We now have the very unusual situation of the South-East being hit by both a property slump and by increasing unemployment. That may cause more prob-

lems in this region but hopefully we won't see such a sharp increase in arrears this year."

Robert Dunn, Tory MP for Dartford, said that the figures underlined the need for an early reduction in interest rates to ease the burden on individuals and firms.

Last week, the prime minister resisted Labour demands for an immediate cut in the cost of borrowing by emphasising that the conquest of inflation remained his priority. Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be hoping, however, that he can brighten an otherwise cheerless budget next month by making credit cheaper.

According to the new figures, countrywide vacancies at Jobcentres fell by 70,000 or 39 per cent in the 12 months to December. The biggest drops were in London (56 per cent), East Anglia (55 per cent) and the South-East (50 per cent). The traditional unemployment blackspots of Yorkshire and Humberside (25 per cent) and the North-West (28 per cent) suffered far less.

Overall, the managerial, clerical and service sectors accounted for more than half the lost vacancies in the past year. The vulnerability of southern England, with its heavy reliance on the service sector, is shown by the London figures.

Managerial vacancies there fell by 800, or 63 per cent, typing and secretarial posts by 260 or 58 per cent, clerical by 2,100 or 48 per cent. The South-East and East Anglia had similar losses, but white collar employment in the other regions was less affected.

Tony Blair, chief opposition employment spokesman, said that the figures showed that the latest downturn was striking at middle-class jobs and bringing down efficient firms.

Leading article, page 11

Pay deals top last year's, survey finds

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THREE-QUARTERS of present pay deals are higher than comparable wage increases a year ago, despite falling inflation, an independent analysis of pay settlements finds today.

The results of the report by Incomes Data Services, the leading pay research company, contrast sharply with recent claims by the Confederation of British Industry that pay deals are now below the headline inflation rate.

Ministers are likely to see the findings as evidence that further jobs will be lost across industry until lower settlements are reached. Last week, when CBI leaders forecast a further 80,000 job losses in the first three months of this year, they said that there was increasing anecdotal evidence that a number of pay settlements were now being reached at lower levels. But Incomes Data Services (IDS)

says today that the bulk of deals are still running at 9 to 11 per cent, well above inflation rate.

The company accepts that there is now beginning to be a greater diversity of pay deals, with "a small but significant group of agreements which are substantially below the inflation rate," including a deal for 7 per cent at Reuters news agency and 6 per cent at Lithgow Electronics.

The survey also records a handful of freezes on pay for a few months - including those at Michelin and Philips. However, the analysis finds settlements in the main still staying high, with about 75 per cent of deals agreed this month running 1 to 2 percentage points higher than comparable agreements in the same companies in the 1989-90 pay round.

Looking at 100 comparable deals, IDS finds that about 80 of them are higher now than last year, such as a deal for staff at Littlewoods, 7.5 per cent last year, 8.75 per cent now. A number of deals are listed as substantially higher, including Borg Warner, offering 11.3 per cent this year against last year's 5 per cent and British Coal at 10 per cent (7.6 per cent).

Small rise in cost of homes

HOUSE prices in Britain increased slightly last month, the first monthly rise since last August, according to a new monthly house price survey published yesterday by the Nationwide Building Society.

The increase was 0.3 per cent, following only small falls in November and December. John Hutchinson, Nationwide's retail operations director, said that the trend may indicate signs of a pick-up in the market.

Another report in *Housing Finance*, journal of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, claims that the increase in house prices during the late 1980s was not to blame for the present recession. It also refutes suggestions that a reduction in interest rates cannot be made because it would increase house prices again.



Holy fools: Smokey the clown making up yesterday for the 45th annual tribute to the father of the profession, Grimaldi. An army of red noses, baggy suits and preposterous footwear descended on Holy Trinity Church, Dalston, east London, for the service, where their owners were greeted by the Rev John Willard. The clowns' painted smiles, however, could not hide the hint of melancholy at the thought of their founding father who died aged 58 in 1837, penniless and crippled

with arthritis. Children and clowns sang along with a one-man band and a wreath was laid at Grimaldi's memorial. Children's chuckles echoed around the lofty building as about a hundred clowns gave thanks for the gift of laughter. There were fewer smiles at Bognor, Sussex, where a hundred American clowns due to have flown in for a convention next month have cancelled because of fears of air terrorism related to the Gulf war. Organisers say the event will still go ahead.

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Barristers may have to continue legal study

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a programme under which all barristers will be required to keep up to date with legal developments through compulsory continuing education courses, are being drawn up within the Bar Council.

The £500,000 scheme, still in draft form, would mean an end to the present system which enables barristers, once qualified, to practise with no further checks on their abilities or knowledge once they have qualified.

Subjects that they might have to study include advocacy, accountancy, European law and human rights, arbitration and out-of-court methods of resolving disputes, known as alternative dispute resolution.

In a linked proposal also under discussion, the requirement to do continuing education courses might be enforced through a new system of practising certificates. It is not compulsory for barristers to pay an annual subscription to their professional body, although solicitors must pay an annual practising certificate fee.

The proposals, to be put to the Bar Council later this year, would bring in a system of compulsory subscriptions and practising certificates for barristers. Only those who had paid their subscriptions and their indemnity insurance premium and undertaken the continuing education courses would be licensed to practise.

Anthony Thornton, QC, Bar Council treasurer, is promoting the idea of compulsory subscriptions after a tribunal hearing last year which held that the Bar was powerless to discipline the minority of barristers who fail to pay. The council believes, however, that under the Bar's new code it could stop barristers from going into court and exercising their rights of audience if in default of their subscriptions.

The Bar proposals are being drafted as a three-part report by a working party. The idea is for the programme to be run by a small secretariat in one of the Inns of Court.

Sick pay pledge for small businesses to quell MPs' revolt

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Newton, the social security secretary, will promise MPs tomorrow to give extra money to small companies affected by high levels of staff sickness.

He hopes the concession will rescue his statutory sick pay bill, which shifts some of the financial responsibility for statutory sick pay from the government to employers.

Mr Newton will announce the demands when the bill returns to the Commons tomorrow for MPs to debate three Lords amendments wrecking his plan to save £100 million a year through reduced state payments of statutory sick pay (SSP).

The Confederation of British Industry says that the legislation could add £1 billion to industry's costs and reneges on a government commitment to meet the full costs.

With heavy whipping of Tory MPs, the government intends to reverse the most damaging Lords amendment sponsored by the CBI, which

cuts the compensation paid by the state to employers for SSP from 100 per cent to 91 per cent instead of the 80 per cent Mr Newton planned.

When the Bill returns to the Lords again on Thursday Lord Waddington, leader of the Lords, will warn peers that their limited financial powers prevent them from cutting the percentage again.

Mr Newton has refused demands by the CBI to scrap the legislation altogether this session. But he has received Treasury clearance to make two concessions.

He will offer extra financial help for 700,000 small firms where national insurance contributions total less than £15,000 a year if they have heavy levels of sickness. He is also expected to accept a Lords amendment requiring a new bill to be introduced before ministers can cut SSP payments to employers still further in future years.

Too soft on sickness? page 14

Heseltine accused of breaking poll tax review pledge

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, was accused yesterday of going back on a promise to make public his thinking on the poll tax.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the government appeared intent on conducting its review of local government finance in an introverted and secretive way.

At a meeting with local government leaders before Christmas Mr Heseltine promised that his department would publish position papers setting out the options which his review would consider. Sir Jack said yesterday that the local authority associations had been told last week that no such papers would be forthcoming.

Instead of revealing its thinking on the poll tax the department had set an "exam paper" of 127 questions which it wanted local government leaders to answer when they

met Mr Heseltine on Thursday, he said.

A possible explanation is that, according to official sources, only a handful of staff have been appointed to the review team. It has been disclosed to *The Times* that in addition to Roger Bright, who has been put in charge of the review, there are only three senior staff working on the project. Apart from their personal secretaries the group has no other clerical support.

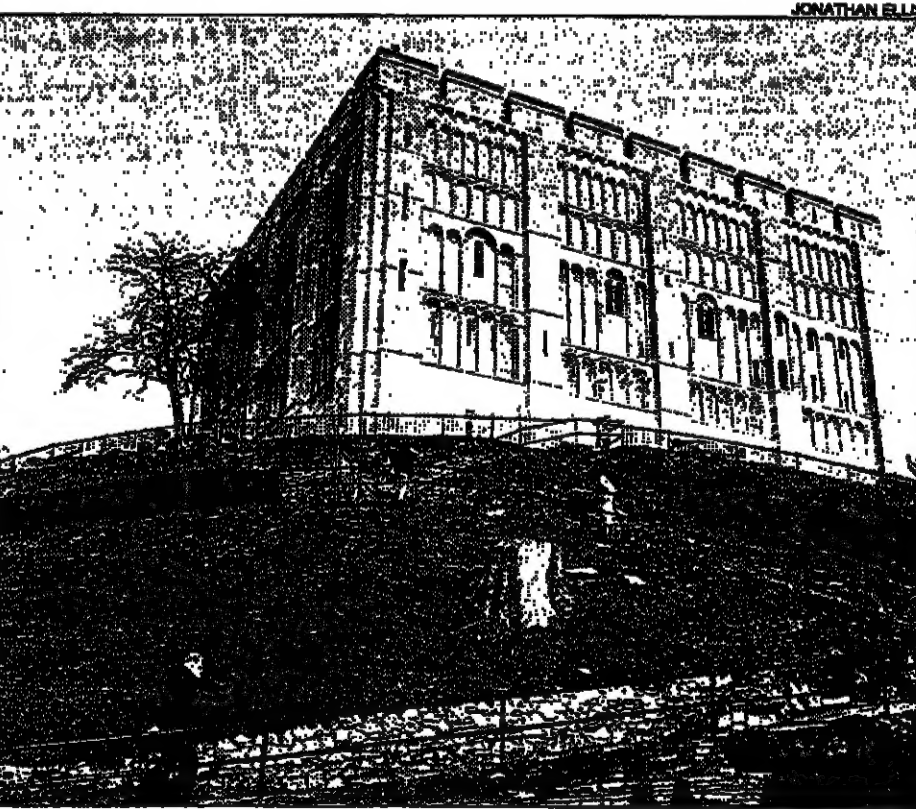
The three senior colleagues working with Mr Bright hold assistant secretary rank and have each been given responsibility for different aspects of the review. They are: Andrew Wells, formerly of the Cabinet Office; Ian Scouter, who will carry out computer modelling to test the practicability of alternatives to the present system of council finance; and Lindsey Bell, who is in charge of examining local government structure.

The need for the review to be as open as possible was underlined by Sir Jack. He said: "Before Christmas, Michael Heseltine made great capital out of his invitation for everyone to sit down with him to help sort out the community charge and the future of local government. But all we have been offered as a basis for talks is a list of exam questions. This is totally contrary to assurances we were given in December."

Controversy over the future of the poll tax was heightened yesterday with the disclosure that a leading accountancy body was urging the government to introduce a national identity card system to help collect the tax.

A draft submission to the government's poll tax review by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the town hall treasurers' body, said that, if ministers were determined to retain some sort of individual local charge, identity cards were the only practical way of keeping track of people.

In its submission, the institute said the poll tax was unfair, three times as expensive to collect as rates and dependent on the effective tracking of a highly mobile population.



Crumbling heritage: a seven-year restoration plan for Norwich castle costing £1.4 million has been drawn up by the city council. The 900-year-old landmark, which houses a museum, is suffering from structural movement. £1m collection, page 12

Squabble over debt 'is a long way from Jesus'

The Bishop of Lincoln believes prayer will resolve the dispute in the city's cathedral, Ruth Gledhill reports

AS THE deadlock continues in the Lincoln cathedral close, one man thinks he might have found the key; the Bishop of Lincoln believes the answer lies in prayer.

The Rt Rev Robert Hardy, aged 54, is distressed by the bitter turn the dispute has taken. He would prefer the nation's attention to be focused on the Decade of Evangelism or the problems of rural ministry rather than the unseemly squabble between the four canons and the dean.

He prays about the Lincoln Magna Carta affair every day. "I pray for the people involved," he says. "I try quite regularly to scrutinise my own actions. I turn the spotlight on me."

There is little else he can do: church law means he is powerless to dismiss any residential canon or to take any action if they refuse to accede to his requests for them to resign. He has found his lack of

episcopal authority one of the most frustrating aspects of the affair.

He strives to recognise that he can be part of the solution and asks God to show him how. "The hard thing has been combining a pastoral role with the individuals with a sort of judgemental role. But that is a problem for all bishops."

"I try not to take sides but to look at the situation as a whole, as it affects the life of the diocese and what it demonstrates to the church in general. As I said before, it is all a very long way from Jesus of Nazareth. Unless we keep going back to the life and ministry of Jesus, we are

in trouble. Inevitably you get drawn in by the pain. I have been supporting several individuals caught up by it, as well as trying to help the protagonists."

The bishop, a liberal catholic, brought the dispute into the public domain with the publication of his report of his "visitation". He was called in by parties after a fundraising exhibition of the cathedral's Magna Carta in Australia in 1988 left a debt of £56,000.

He has been helped through the past few months by his daughter and two sons, in their late teens, and his wife Isabel, a local GP.

One source of anguish is the way the affair has detracted from other issues: his particular concern is rural ministry. One in ten of his clergy have fewer than 1,000 parishioners in their care, spread over as many as 10 communities. He is involved in the church's response to the recent

report, *Faith in the Countryside*.

The bishop's reputation for straight talking, and his honesty and integrity made him the ideal choice to go to Lincoln four years ago. It was already widely known that there were problems in the diocese.

Born in Wakefield he was drawn into the church by a religious experience when he visited Hereford Cathedral during national service. "I felt God knew me and I knew Him," he said. He decided to become ordained in his second year at Clare College, Cambridge.

"I think the fundamental call to a Christian is to lead a holy and good life. I actually care about my own soul quite a lot. Being a bishop makes it harder to care for your own soul because inevitably you are forced into situations of compromise, of having to make judgements. I think it is quite difficult to do that with honesty and integrity."

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today: In Cwmbran, the head of the Gwent police traffic department faces a drink-driving charge.

Tomorrow: Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, addresses a crime prevention conference in Westminster. Variety Club showbusiness awards are presented. Nigel Benn, the boxer, appears before Newham magistrates charged with causing actual bodily harm.

Wednesday: McDonald's Child of Achievement awards presented at Guildhall, London. Jazz for Romania concert at the Regent Palace hotel, London.

Thursday: Royal College of Psychiatrists reports on anorexia and bulimia. The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh open a new building at Royal Brompton national heart and lung hospital.

Friday: Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, addresses local government conference in Nottingham. Jeremy Isaacs, of the Royal Opera House, meets the press at a newspaper conference lunch.

Saturday: Young Conservatives' conference starts in Scarborough.

Sunday: Cheltenham Conservative Association meets to discuss John Taylor's selection as candidate.

Maxwell names new editor at European

Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher, announced yesterday that he had acquired the title of *The Correspondent* newspaper, which will be incorporated into *The European* (Arthur Leathley writes).

Mr Maxwell also appointed John Bryant, former editor of *The Correspondent* and former deputy editor of *The Times*, as editor of the weekly English-language newspaper which is sold throughout Europe. There is no indication as to whether the Friday newspaper would in future be published on Sunday, as was *The Correspondent* until it ceased trading in November.

Mr Bryant takes over from Ian Watson, who has been appointed editorial director after resigning over what Mr Maxwell referred to as "an amicable difference of policy" over plans to incorporate *The Correspondent*.

The European is believed to be selling about 250,000 copies each Friday, shared equally between Britain and European outlets.

Mr Bryant said last night that it was too early to say whether there would be changes, but added: "There is no crisis in the paper."

Mr Maxwell also announced that Charles Wilson, editor-in-chief of *The Sporting Life* and former editor of *The Times*, and David Burdette, British Airways public affairs director, have been appointed directors of *The European*.

Liver girl stable

Tamara Rainey, aged two, from Belfast, who was given only hours to live before a donor was found for a second liver transplant on Saturday, was in a stable condition on a ventilator at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, last night. Surgeons were "extremely pleased" with her progress. Tamara, who had a failed liver swap last October, is expected to be in intensive care for at least four days.

Killer warning

Police hunting the killer of a 22-year-old prostitute, found strangled near the Wolverhampton-Shifnal road in Shropshire, believe that he may be the man who murdered another prostitute, Gail Whitehouse, in Wolverhampton four months ago. They have warned all prostitutes in the area to be on their guard. The latest victim, named only as Janine, was found in undergrowth.

Better-care plea

Research is urgently needed into better ways of caring for the terminally ill in hospital and at home, the Office of Health Economics reports today (Thomson Prentice writes). It says that a growing elderly population will have serious implications for the provision of terminal care services. Studies of the options were needed within the health, social services, private and voluntary sectors.

Bridge debt rise

The Humber bridge debt is expected to have increased to more than £410 million by the end of March. The bridge board will be told on Wednesday that although there has been an operating surplus, £38.2 million in interest charges will have to be added to last year's debt of £372.7 million. The board hopes that the government will wipe off a large part of the debt.

Farm buildings to be brought under planning controls

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS will soon lose the virtual freedom from planning control which they have enjoyed since the second world war. In the next few weeks Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is expected to give local authorities the power to control the siting, design and construction of farm buildings.

The National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners Association have grudgingly accepted the need for the change, though they are worried that it will burden their members with extra costs and red tape at a time of falling incomes and hamper their attempts to diversify.

Countrywide pressure groups, such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the government's

own adviser on rural affairs, the Countryside Commission, want Mr Heseltine to go even further and bring agriculture under full planning control, exposing road and building projects to public scrutiny.

That view is shared by the Tory-controlled Association of District Councils, representing some 330 rural and suburban local authorities in England and Wales. Ian Jackson, its under-secretary for planning, said: "We have been surprised by the overwhelming support among all our members for farming to be fully controlled."

Despite this pressure, Mr Heseltine is unlikely to go much, if at all, beyond the proposals first outlined by his predecessor, Chris Patten, in last September's environment

white paper and set out in more detail in a consultation document issued by the department in October. The deadline for interested parties to respond expired last month.

Mr Heseltine is expected to extend to the whole country the prior notification system applied in the National Parks and the Norfolk Broads. Local planning authorities would have to be given details of any plan to put up, alter or extend a farm or forestry building.

A local authority could not stop a building going up but would have 28 days to serve notice that approval would be delayed until agreement on its site, design and external appearance had been reached. The applicant could appeal against such a decision.

At present a farmer or landowner can, every two years, put up a building of any style, design or colour almost anywhere without permission, provided it is "reasonably necessary" for agriculture or forestry and covers less than 5,000 sq ft.



Formula to end mail monopoly

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMULA to break up the postal monopoly of the Royal Mail is put forward by right-wing think tank in a report published today.

The Adam Smith Institute calls for a gradual privatisation in which a limited number of new carriers are allowed to compete alongside the existing service. A regulatory body, akin to OfTel in the telecommunications field, would be set up to issue licences, set and enforce standards, monitor prices and promote competition, the report says.

Ministers have shied away from privatising postal services for fear of disruption and greatly increased charges for people living in remote, rural places. The institute acknowledges the concern, saying that overnight abolition of the £1 minimum charge for letters not carried by the Royal Mail could be disastrous for some customers.

The report issues a warning that with the European Community threatening to harmonise all postal services into an effective single monopoly, Britain must move quickly to create an enterprising but practical model for European reforms.

Building Responsibility: the case for extending planning control over agricultural and forestry buildings (Council for the Protection of Rural England, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP; £6 inc pp)

Leading article, page 11

Good vibrations: Paul Whitaker, a profoundly deaf pianist, and Liz Varlow, a viola player who is also unable to hear, enthralled an audience yesterday when they gave a recital at Bradford, Yorkshire.

The two played in an event called "Sound Sense - communicating with music" where those with hearing as well as the deaf were encouraged to join in. Mr Whitaker, aged 26, who was the first profoundly deaf person to take a music degree at Oxford University, is choirmaster at Holy Trinity Church in South Crossland, Huddersfield.

Mrs Margaret Whitaker, his mother, said: "While playing the organ or piano, he feels the vibrations on his hands and the rest of his body." Miss Varlow, from Manchester, is a member of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

□ Britain's first blind judge starts full-time work in the Chancery Division of the Royal Courts of Justice today. John Wall, a solicitor aged 60, is chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Sinn Fein pledges strategy for peace

By A CORRESPONDENT IN BELFAST

SINN Fein promised yesterday to develop a strategy for peace but refused to offer any hope of an early end to the IRA's campaign.

Gerry Adams, the party's leader and Sinn Fein MP for Belfast West, told its annual conference that he hoped when the Gulf war was over the prime minister would turn his attention to the Irish question. Mr Adams said he had written to John Major urging a change in British strategy over Ireland.

The conference was also told by Martin McGuinness, a leading Sinn Fein spokesman, that in coming months the party would be attempting to develop a strategy for peace, but he gave no hints on the direction that would take.

Sinn Fein would be prepared to hold unconditional talks with the British government, Mr McGuinness said. The party wanted a total demilitarisation and an end to armed conflict of all kinds in Ireland. However, he poured scorn on recent speculation about a ceasefire and described it as just the same old boring black propaganda.

Mr Adams, in his letter to Mr Major, said that in Sinn Fein's view peace would come with the restoration of democracy to Ireland, and that process could begin if Britain shifted the massive resources and energy now used to defend partition to convincing unionists that everyone's best interests would be better served by Britain leaving Northern Ireland. The central thrust of Sinn Fein policy is still aimed at British withdrawal.

A debate is under way within Sinn Fein on the way the party should develop politically. Some activists have made clear that they no longer wish the party to be seen as acting as proxy spokesmen for the IRA. The emphasis is now publicly on Sinn Fein's new-found interest in bringing about a peace initiative.

Separate murder plot trials rejected

The trial of the former Sinn Fein publicity director Danny Morrison and nine others on charges of conspiracy to murder will begin in Belfast on February 18 after a judge rejected an application for separate trials. Mr Morrison, of Belfast, is charged with six others with plotting to murder Alexander Lynch, who was found by troops allegedly being interrogated by IRA activists as a suspected police informer.

James Martin of Belfast is also accused of murdering James Fenton, whose body was discovered after he, too, had allegedly been interrogated and murdered. Mr Martin's son James is charged with unlawfully imprisoning Mr Lynch. The last of nine defendants, a man and a woman are accused of making property available to terrorists.

MP survives

Barry Porter, Conservative MP for Wirral South, yesterday survived by 114-44 votes an attempt to replace him.

Women lose out

Five women who applied to become Nottinghamshire miners have been rejected as unsuitable.

Animals raid

The Animal Liberation Front says it released dozens of cats, rabbits and guinea pigs from an Oxford university breeding centre, claiming they were used in experiments.

Health drive

The Health Promotion Authority for Wales will today unveil its strategy to reduce heart disease and cancer deaths. It will involve local authorities, industrialists and schools.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds prize weekly draw are: £100,000, bond 22DZ 308237 (East Sussex); £50,000, 035914 (Warwickshire); £25,000, 26TP 867252 (Edinburgh).

Unease grows over NFU's elections

IN JUST over a week from now, the 106 members of the ruling council of the National Farmers' Union will meet in conclave to elect David Naish, aged 51, a jovial arable and livestock farmer from Budby, Nottinghamshire, to be their next president (Michael Hornby writes). The outcome can be predicted with certainty because Mr Naish is now the deputy president.

As *Farmers Weekly*, the bible of the farming classes, noted in a recent editorial: "The unwritten rules of this arcane electoral college... demand that the outgoing president is replaced by his deputy. Council members will not destroy the pecking order that allows them to make their slow-but-safe progress up the NFU hierarchical ladder."

The principle of Bugles's turn has been raised to the level of high art at Agriculture House, the NFU's headquarters in Knightsbridge. The last time an NFU president was succeeded by anyone other than his deputy was in 1960, and then it was by the previous deputy president.

However, unease is growing that this cosy arrangement may not be best suited to provide the calibre of leadership needed at a time when agriculture has never stood so low in public esteem, incomes are falling and subsidies under threat and farmers who cannot produce food at competitive prices are being told they must find a new role as keepers of the countryside.

A poll of 750 NFU members by *Farmers Weekly* found that two-thirds wanted to be able to vote for the president. Just over half considered the NFU leadership to be out of touch with the rank and file, and about the same percentage did not even know who Mr Naish was. Oliver Walston, who led a

recent call by Cambridgeshire farmers for one-man-one-vote elections, infuriated the NFU establishment earlier this month by suggesting that Mr Naish would be elected "by 100 men whom he has been buying drinks for at the Farmers' Club for the last eight years". He said he was not implying any improper buying of votes, but attacking the "cronyism" of the system.

Mr Naish and his colleagues protest that the NFU is impeccably democratic. On paper, it is. The NFU may be the only working model of Leninist democratic centralism left in Europe. In a classic pyramidal structure, local "soviets" elect delegates to the county divisions which in turn, send representatives to the national council.

So long as the leadership delivered the goods, the system worked fairly well. As the going has got tougher, maintaining unity has become harder. Mr Walston, an East Anglian barley harrow, worries that Mr Naish may prove too much of an old-style NFU leader but much of the discontent with the leadership springs from nostalgia for when the union was a power in the land.



Naish: protests that NFU is impeccably democratic

Building Responsibility: the case for extending planning control over agricultural and forestry buildings (Council for the Protection of Rural England, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP; £6 inc pp)

Decisive win for Speelman

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

JON Speelman has moved into a one point lead in his world championship qualifying match against Nigel Short. In the fifth game of the eight-game match in London, decisive play by Speelman forced Short's resignation on the 35th move when Short was faced with certain checkmate.

Short, playing black, adopted the risky Dutch defence.

On the 32nd move Speelman broke through on the queen's flank and swiftly turned his attention with his combined attack of queen and rook against the black king on the opposite side of the board.

Meanwhile, in the international tournament at Wijk aan Zee in The Netherlands, Dr John Nunn, the London grandmaster, has won first prize with 8½ points out of 13.

Game 5, World Championship Qualifying Tournament White, Speelman; Black, Short Dutch Defence

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	15 b4	sub4
2 d4	S	20 sub4	Ne4
3 g3	Nf6	21 Bxb4	Qxb4
4 Bg2	Na7	22 d5	Rxb3
5 Nf3	c5	23 Rb3	Rxb3
6 d5	c4	24 Qxb3	cs
7 Qc2	b7	25 Qxb3	Nd7
8 Bc1	a6	26 Qxb3	Nd5
9 Bxb2	Qxb7	27 Qxb3	R15
10 Bxb7	Qxb7	28 Rb1	K7
11 Nxb5	Qxb7	29 Rb1	Nd7
12 Nd3	Qxb7	30 Rb1	Nd7
13 Nf4	Qxb7	31 Qb6	Kg6
14 Nd5	Qxb7	32 Qxb7	Qc5
15 Nd2	Nd7	33 Qb7	Qc5
16 a3	Nd5	34 Qb7	Qc5
17 Qc3	Nd5	35 Qb7	Qc5
18 Rb1	R7		

'Speed up home aid for elderly'

THE government's community care reforms should be brought forward by a year to let local councils improve services for the elderly and infirm, says a report published today (Jill Sherman writes).

Health policy analysts at the King's Fund Institute, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Nuffield Institute say that a decision by ministers to delay the main reforms until 1993 was short-sighted and costly. Service developments have been frozen while social security

expenditure has risen. Under the plans, rooney now channelled into benefits for residential homes will be transferred to local authorities so that they can provide home services for the elderly, the mentally handicapped and the mentally ill.

ALTHOUGH seven out of eight social service staff are women, they fill only one in eight directors' posts, says a health department report today. It calls for more flexible working arrangements to make use of women's talents.

Government spending: social services

Sick, old and disabled will benefit from cash increases

Social security spending is set to increase, reaching £72.4 billion by 1993-4. Jill Sherman reports

THE elderly, disabled and long-term sick will benefit most from social security spending over the next three years, according to the first in a series of spending plans by the government.

The plans, which this year are being set out in individual department documents instead of a public expenditure white paper, confirm that social security spending will rise from £55.9 billion in 1990-1 to £62.8 billion in 1991-2, jumping to £72.4 billion by 1993-4. By next year, social security spending will account for 31 per cent of all government spending, the report said.

Benefits for the unemployed are expected to rise from £4.85 billion in 1990-1 to £5.59 billion in 1991-2 and £6.3 billion in 1993-4. The social security department said it is using the Treasury assumption of

an average 1.75 million unemployed adults next year. An extra £300 million has been earmarked for £50,000 long-term sick and disabled by 1993-4.

Announcing details of the plans, Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said spending on long-term sick and disabled had more than doubled since 1979, to over £10 billion in 1990-1. Support for the disabled would be improved further with two new benefits from April 1992 - the disability living allowance, which extends

and replaces the present mobility and attendance allowance, and the disability working allowance for disabled people on low wages. Spending on the elderly is expected to increase from £28.59 billion to £36.2 billion in 1993-4. Spending on the long-term sick will rise from £10.12 billion in 1990-1 to £14.6 billion in 1993-4.

Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, said the report raised doubts about some of the 1988 social security reforms. "Family credit (for low-income working families) is emerging as the biggest hype of the decade. The report admits that only 50 per cent of those entitled actually claim it, the same as for Family Income Supplement (FIS) which it replaced. It still takes three days longer to pay than FIS and the error rate is four times as high."

The calm during the storm.

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National resentments pothole the road to Baltic independence

WHEN you drive outside the main cities of the Soviet Union, you feel as if you have been transported not just hundreds of miles, but decades backwards, in the space of minutes.

It is not just the primitive way of life and the poverty in the country, where most agricultural work is still being done by horses, it is also because you sometimes stumble on what Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish poet, called the "lost Atlantes" of Eastern Europe — the remnants of what used to be large, historic populations now forgotten by the wider world.

An example is Milosz's own community, the Poles of Lithuania. On Saturday I travelled to the district of Salcininkai, south of Vilnius, to ask them how they would vote in the poll on independence next Sunday. Since Lithuanians constitute more than 75 per cent of the population — Poles constitute fewer than eight per cent — there is little chance, as there is in Latvia and Estonia, that independence will not receive a two-thirds majority.

However, the attitude of the Polish,

Russian and Belorussian minorities in this referendum will be an indication of the future behaviour of Russian and other minorities living outside their native republics.

Most of the Polish educated classes moved from Vilnius, for centuries a Polish cultural centre, after its annexation by Soviet Lithuania in 1945 leaving the remaining Poles divided between industrial workers round Vilnius and collective farmers in rural areas such as Salcininkai. Both groups are open to pressure and propaganda from the communist party, which uses every means possible to hinder independence.

The small number of educated Poles here are more likely to support Lithuanian independence than uneducated ones. However, among uneducated Poles, I have observed a definite swing in support of independence over the past year, especially since the Soviet army killed Lithuanian civilians on January 13. In the words of one Polish woman from Salcininkai: "I may not like Landsbergis, but at least he's not a mass murderer."

Lithuanians will go to the polls next Sunday to vote on the issue of independence. Anatol Lieven reports from Salcininkai on the attitude of ethnic Poles and assesses the importance of the minority groups' vote

My opinion poll would suggest that a small majority of Poles in Salcininkai and Vilnius may be willing to support independence, while a majority of industrial workers in New Vilnius are opposed. However, many industrial workers may not bother to vote.

Polish MPs in the Lithuanian parliament, elected on Communist party and Sajudis tickets, have headed together supporting Lithuanian independence in return for which they have certain demands including the incorporation of all Polish areas into one administrative region and Polish higher education.

Education is one of the main concerns of the Polish intelligentsia. Again and again, I heard bitter complaints against the Lithuanian nationalists, and some of

the Polish leaders who support them, because they have accused Poles of sending their children to Russian, not Polish, schools. "What good is a Polish education here?" one mother asked me. "What can you do with it when there's no university? You are just sentencing your children to be workers or farmers."

This is a question which affects smaller nationalities across the Soviet Union. They prefer to study in Russian — thereby increasing hostility towards them among local national majorities — because Russian is their only passport to a wider world.

The gloom of winter in Salcininkai seemed somehow appropriate to the lives of these Polish peasants, speaking of Polish culture in a Polish-Belorussian dialect which is almost incompre-

hensible to many Poles living in Poland. Even their MPs seldom visit them. Their constituents tend to resent them for this, as indeed they resent everyone — the Lithuanian nationalists for their coarse insults and implicit threats, the Polish intelligentsia for "betraying" them, even the Poles of Poland for advising them, from a safe distance, that they must support Lithuanian independence.

However, such Polish advice, given by everyone from the Pope to Lech Walesa, is having an effect. This is through Polish television, which was showing in most Polish homes I visited.

A minority of Poles want to secede from Lithuania and join Belorussia, a few kilometres away. Inter-marriage between Poles and Belorussians strengthens this. A more common sentiment was expressed by Maria Pleskiewicz, a farm-er's wife: "We don't want to be in Lithuania or Belorussia. We just want to be on our own." Where they really want to be, of course, is in Poland — but this option is not open to them.

A similar desire to be left alone and to

live better characterises many Russians in Estonia, where a referendum on independence will be held on March 3, and in Latvia, where the national movement is debating whether to follow suit.

A majority of Russian industrial workers in these republics dislike and fear the nationalist movements, but there has been a poor response to communist calls to strike and protest. The Russian workers are obsessed with economic questions — and, like the Poles of Salcininkai, they are aware that life is even worse across the Russian and Belorussian borders. This knowledge, which has as much to do with revulsion at the behaviour of the Soviet army, may persuade many Russians and Poles to support independence — but it will be a close race.

If the results show the Russians as largely united against independence, then it will be another sign of how difficult the Baltic road to independence will be — even after the present Soviet communist and military conspiracy of the past months is a memory.

'Stalinist' army defied by Croatian minister

By RICHARD BASSETT IN ZAGREB AND DESA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

MARTIN Spigelj, the Croatian defence minister, whose arrest is sought by the Yugoslav army, denounced the army at the weekend as a "cruel KGB, stalinist organisation".

Stipe Mesic, the Croatian representative on the Yugoslav collective presidency, accused the army of waging a "vicious campaign to bring down the democratically elected government of Croatia", which is moving towards independence.

Speaking at an interior ministry safe house, which was defended by armoured vehicles, heavily armed militiamen and special police units, Mr Spigelj said that there was no doubt that Croatia would fight to defend both him and its sovereignty.

"The Yugoslav army may have tanks and helicopters but they lack the most important

thing, something which we have, the will to fight," he said. The Yugoslav army wants to detain Mr Spigelj on charges of terrorism and the planning of an attack on Yugoslav soldiers and their families.

Last weekend Belgrade television broadcast a film purporting to show Mr Spigelj talking about the attack, which "would spare neither women nor children". Mr Spigelj said that the film was a "stalinist exercise in photomontage". He served for many years in the Yugoslav army, ending up as a general.

He denied that he still had links with Yugoslav military intelligence and that he was being used as an agent provocateur. "I have always been something of a liberal," he said. He accused the army's generals, particularly the chief of the army staff, General Blagoje Adic, of posing a "dire threat to democracy". He said: "Adic is extremely dangerous. He is an unscrupulous militarist."

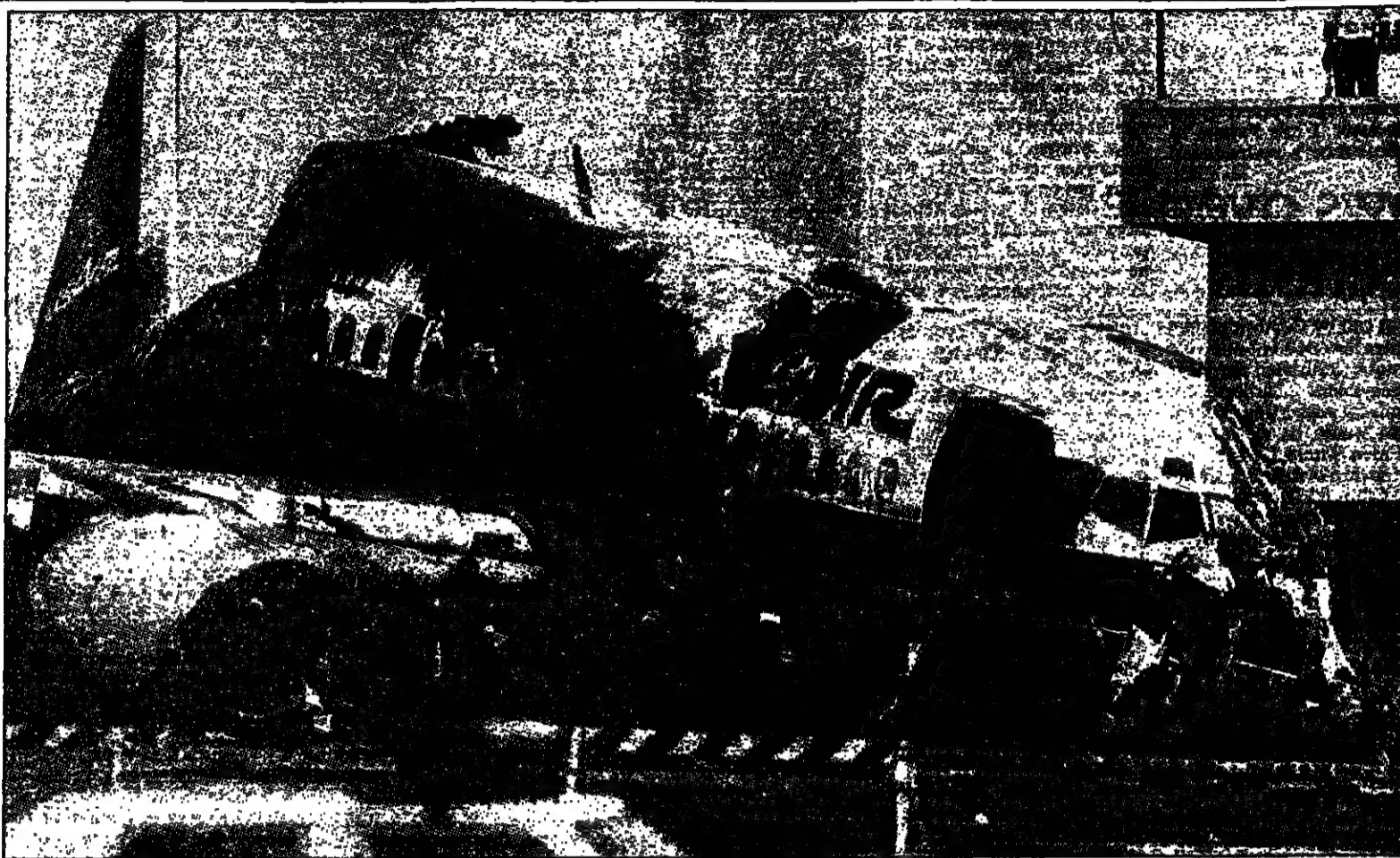
The Croatian government has called for the resignation of General Adic but the army, which is playing an increasingly open political role, has only reiterated its demand that Croatia hand over Mr Spigelj.

The war of nerves against Croatia was stepped up by Borisav Jovic, the Yugoslav president, at the weekend. He sent a message to Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, accusing Croatia of failing to demobilise its militia and reserve units as agreed last week in return for the army relaxing its state of alert.

Mr Jovic accused the Croats of breaking their word and left them in no doubt that the Yugoslav army, 80 per cent of whose officers are Serbs, regarded this breach in a serious light.

In the troubled region of Knin in southern Croatia, where several thousand Serbs are refusing to recognise Croatian authority, a rally was held on Saturday accusing the Croats yet again of plotting genocide.

In Belgrade, two reporters from the Serbian newspaper *Vecernje Novosti* said they had been beaten up by five armed members of Croatia's ruling Croatian Democratic Union in the Croatian town of Virovitica on Friday.



Crash aftermath: Investigators at Los Angeles airport standing yesterday near the wrecked, smoke-blackened nose of the USAir Boeing 737 which collided on the runway with a smaller aircraft, killing at least 35 people

'Control error' led to plane collision

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

CONFUSION among air controllers caused a Boeing 737 to collide with a smaller airliner as it landed at Los Angeles airport on Friday night, according to initial reports.

The crash, in which at least 35 people were killed, was the fourth and most serious runway collision involving airliners at American airports in recent months. The disaster brought new demands yesterday for improvements to be made in traffic procedures around the biggest United States airports.

After listening to control tower recordings, investigators said controllers cleared the USAir 737, which was carrying 89 people on a flight from Ohio, to land while the Fairchild Metroliner of Skywest Airlines was preparing to take off from the same runway. The twin-engine, turbo-prop Metroliner, which was carrying 10 people on a local flight, had been following instructions to taxi into take-off position some distance down runway 24 left, according to investigators.

All on board the aircraft were killed instantly as it was crushed under the much bigger Boeing and dragged 200 yards across the tarmac. More than 25 passengers were unable to scramble out of the burning Boeing which came to rest after hitting a disused fire station.

USAir, one of the country's largest airlines, was withdrawing a final casualty figure yesterday.

Smoke and fire rather than the impact were blamed for the deaths of many of the Boeing passengers. Critics have been arguing for years that the design of airliners hampers rapid evacuation in fires and leads to many unnecessary deaths.

Investigators said it appeared that controllers may have overlooked the Skywest airliner after allowing it to enter the runway. The same control frequency, known as "tower", is used for co-ordinating landings and take-offs, but movements at busy airports have become so hectic that confusion sometimes arises.

One report yesterday said that the USAir Boeing had trouble receiving a response from the busy tower as it was lining up for landing under instructions from the approach controllers. Approach hands arriving aircraft off to the tower frequency after marshalling them to the vicinity of the airport.

Clashes mar mass rally in Albania

Barrel — Riot police in this Albanian town intervened to separate supporters of the ruling communists and the main opposition Democratic party during an opposition rally of some 10,000 people.

The rally in Barrel, 36 miles northeast of the capital, Tirana, was the latest in a series of gatherings by the party, which is mounting the first challenge to communist rule in elections scheduled for March 31. (AP)

Cold deaths

Athens — Two people froze to death in Greece as temperatures sank to their lowest in five years and snow blanketed most of the country. Police said the two died in northern Greece, where temperatures plunged to minus 20°C. More than 70 villages were cut off. (Reuters)

Sweden setback

Stockholm — Sweden's ruling Social Democrats have fallen to a new low in popularity ratings less than eight months before a general election, according to an opinion poll. The survey gave the party of Ingvar Carlsson, the prime minister, only 31.7 per cent of support in January, down 0.1 percentage points from the previous monthly poll. (Reuters)

Paris blast

Paris — A bomb exploded outside a central Paris tax office, causing damage to the building and parked cars but no injuries, police said. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. (Reuters)

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Marxism rejected in Italy

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

FOR decades the largest and most powerful communist party in the West and the cradle of Euro-communism, the Partito Comunista Italiano, last night ceased to exist. Riddled by internal dissent and weakened by years of electoral losses, the party has decided to abandon marxism and change its name to the Democratic Party of the Left.

Under the continued leadership of Achille Occhetto, it will now try to create a new identity and political role in a prevailing mood of intense post-marxist uncertainty. The transformation, on the agenda since late 1989, formally took place at the party's national congress in Rimini. Most of the 1,250 delegates voted for the change, after three days of intense secret debate, but even this majority is already deeply split, in particular over the issue of the war in the Gulf and Italy's military role in it.

The extreme left of the old party, the marxist hardliners led by Armando Cossutta, announced yesterday that it would have no part of the new party and would reform a communist movement of its own.

The Italian Communist party, which has announced a bid to re-establish its control over all areas of Soviet life, is deeply split both about the methods it should use and about its ultimate objectives. Reports of last week's central committee plenum published in the Soviet press at the weekend show that opposing factions are engaged in a bitter struggle for power.

After most recent central committee plenums, a transcript of the proceedings, in full or edited, has been published in *Pravda*. This time, no transcript has appeared so far. Instead, different speeches have been published in different papers. President Gorbachev's opening address, which he gave as general secretary of the party, has not appeared in print at all.

The Russian Federation newspaper, *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, which takes a generally conservative line, printed two of last week's plenum speeches in full: those by the Russian Communist party leader, Ivan Polozkov, and the Ukrainian, Boris Oleinik. *Pravda* the same day published a lengthy account of a speech by Vladimir Ivashko, the deputy general secretary, who was nominated by Mr Gorbachev last July, and a speech on mostly administrative and managerial matters by Oleg Shenin, another Gorbachevite

Faction fights rend Soviet party

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Communist party, which has announced a bid to re-establish its control over all areas of Soviet life, is deeply split both about the methods it should use and about its ultimate objectives. Reports of last week's central committee plenum published in the Soviet press at the weekend show that opposing factions are engaged in a bitter struggle for power.

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in the current politburo. The substance and tone of the speeches selected by the two papers were quite different. The speeches by Mr Polozkov and Mr Oleinik contained outspoken and at times vicious criticism of perestroika, glasnost and the "new political thinking" in foreign policy, which at times spilled into personal criticism of the Soviet leader.

"Perestroika," Mr Polozkov said, "which was begun in 1985 and conceived by the party and people as a renewal of socialism... has not come about. By juxtaposing human and class interests and giving priority to universal values, we have rendered poor service to the socialist idea." Mr Oleinik selected Soviet Gulf policy, long a source of unhappiness in conservative circles, as the main target of his attack. He claimed that the United States was, as always, acting only in its own national interests and that the Soviet Union had been turned into "a frontline state".

The speeches published in *Pravda* were both more positive on glasnost and perestroika and more conciliatory. They adhered to the familiar Gorbachev line of the need for co-operation between the Communist party and other parties or groups. Mr Ivashko said outright that the party leadership insisted on the

"primacy of human, popular and state interests over internal party interests".

Mr Shenin's speech dealt with the requirements the party had to meet in order to register as a political party. This is a procedure which all Soviet parties must follow under legislation passed last year and suggested that one part of the leadership wants

the Communist party to be subject to the law of the land and to compete as one of several political parties. The official report on the plenum proceedings which was published by both papers at the end of last week made clear that the Ivashko-Shenin group, that is, the Gorbachevites, had prevailed — at least for the time being.

Investigations said it appeared that controllers may have overlooked the Skywest airliner after allowing it to enter the runway. The same control frequency, known as "tower", is used for co-ordinating landings and take-offs, but movements at busy airports have become so hectic that confusion sometimes arises.

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Talking tactics: a militia commander instructing army and militia officers on the proper conduct of much criticised joint patrols in Moscow

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK by George Brock

Slipping cheques to slipshod economies

THE decision was nearly buried by the technical detail of Spain's new gift to the English language, the "hard basket oot". Not everybody may have noticed, but the European Community has just given Greece an awfully big cheque.

The community last week agreed in principle to lend £1.5 billion to Greece in the hope of cutting a budget deficit that is becoming too large for those who would like to see Europe's economies converge. On the same day, the French proposed that governments which did not run tight economic ships might have their community funds suspended.

Listening to the Luxembourg finance minister drop through these matters, my thoughts turned to ways in which this sanction might be extended. The first example that sprang immediately to mind was... Greece. If you buy a bottle of imported whisky, gin, vodka, rum or tequila in Greece you pay 36 per cent VAT. If you buy local ouzo or brandy, the rate falls to 16 per cent.

The Greek government claims that the imported spirits are luxury goods and can be taxed as such. The European Commission is trying to get the community judges to tell Athens that vodka is not a luxury. The community's Court of Auditors has recently been examining

It's also an alternative to the stock market



the community's Integrated Mediterranean Programmes. To judge by the court's report, they might just as well be called the Indiscriminate

Money Projects. The auditors went to Crete to inspect an irrigation scheme designed to convert olive groves to other uses. The irrigation systems were being used to water...

The moral of this story might appear to be: join the community late, run your economy very badly and ignore the 1992 rules. The cheques will keep coming.

Belgium's war of attrition with France over the headquarters city for the European parliament booms on. The French Christian Democrats have now summoned an air strike in the shape of Elizabeth Guigon, the French European affairs minister, who is being asked to take the matter of the rivalry between Brussels and Strasbourg to the European Court.

Aggrieved French MEPs have sent her a letter saying that the issue of meeting sits in which city is a matter for countries to argue about, and not a concern for supranational institutions such as the parliament.

The fracas arose because last week a British MEP managed to organise a plenary session of the parliament in Brussels. Every representative of the French nation has been mobilised to reverse this awful precedent. Mme Guigon has written to all French MEPs and it seems to have had an effect; there were remarkably few at the meeting. Of the 22 French Socialists, only six were to be found in the building and only two had signed the lists outside the sitting.

Removing Europe's farmers from the drug of common agricultural policy subsidies means curing the withdrawal symptoms with different subsidies. Watch out for imaginative schemes labelled as "alternative farm enterprises". Ray McSharry, the agriculture commissioner, has won £2,500 grants for greyhound breeders, who happen to be concentrated in Ireland. By chance, this is the country from which Mr McSharry comes and in which he hopes to resume his political career before long.

Gay saint claim fans church feud in US

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

FRESH oil was thrown on the flaming feud between the reformers and traditionalists of America's big churches at the weekend when the Anglican Bishop of Newark published a book that says St Paul was a "self-loathing and repressed gay male".

The claim, by the Right Rev John Spong in his book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, amounted to the final straw for the traditionalist rear guard in the Episcopal church which regards him as something between a lunatic and a heretic. "I think Spong is self-destructing," the Rev Todd Wetzel, director of the Episcopalians United, said. The Cleveland group was set up to fight the sort of ideas about sex, women and race propagated by the 59-year-old cleric. Bishop Spong argues in his book that homosexuality is

the only explanation for St Paul's attitude to himself in declarations such as "Wretched man that I am" and in his notorious instructions to women, such as "wives submit to your husbands". "Nothing else could account for Paul's self-judging rhetoric, his negative feeling for his own body and his sense of being controlled by something he had no power to change."

The book has prompted a fresh broadside from the bishop's Catholic colleague, Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark. He said yesterday that the book was "one of the craziest things I've heard so far". He has already accused Bishop Spong of "Catholic-bashing" after the Anglican called the Catholic attitude to women "so insulting, so retrograde" that women should abandon the church "for the sake of their own humanity."

De Klerk asks nation to help him construct multiracial democracy

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

IN AN unprecedented publicity campaign, President de Klerk took out full-page advertisements in South African newspapers yesterday where he appealed to all South Africans to help construct a multiracial democracy by "listening to the dreams of others".

Under the headline "Politicians can work out a new South Africa, but they can't make it work - only you can do that", the text called for unity in striving for peace, justice and prosperity. "Now is the time to speak out loud and clear about these dreams that unite us - and more importantly, to listen to the dreams of others," he said.

"Then we will become a nation,

because these dreams are the foundation of our new South African nation. Only on this foundation can our politicians work out a new South Africa that will work. Because the people will want it to." The president's appeal followed a lukewarm response by the African National Congress to his announcement on Friday that laws classifying race at birth, reserving the majority of land for whites, and segregating residential areas would be repealed during the current session of parliament.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, insisted that apartheid was still in force, rejected an offer of a say in government

during the transition period, and reiterated demands for a constituent assembly and an interim government.

"The reality is that we still have no votes," he said. "We cannot become MPs. The state organs are still dominated by whites. The police are still harassing, persecuting and even killing our people, and the government will not bring them to book."

"We cannot accept President de Klerk's proposal to find ways to integrate leaders of the negotiating partners into policy formulations," he said.

Mr Mandela said the ANC would accept that the reform process was irreversible only if "we ourselves control that process" through representation in parliament. According to the government of being reluctant to repeal representative security laws, he said: "This underscores the urgency of the installation of an interim government, reflective of all the political forces in our country."

His remarks highlighted the fundamental issue in the transition process - who should be in charge of it. Pretoria insists that it must continue to govern, and lead the negotiations on a new constitution, while the ANC is striving to attain power through an elected assembly and an interim government.

Two rival camps are emerging, with the ANC supported by its allies in the Communist party, the black trade union movement, and the radical Pan Africanist Congress, and the government's view shared by the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party, the Natal-based Zulu movement led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthe.

Compromise proposals likely to be debated in the coming months include one for a committee of "wise men", comprising independent figures to steer and referee constitutional negotiations.

Mr Mandela will have a more personal problem on his mind today when his wife, Winnie, is due to face trial in the Johannesburg supreme court on eight charges of abduction and serious assault arising from the murder of a black activist, aged 14, by thugs acting as her bodyguard in Soweto in December 1988.

Police in township clashes with blacks

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JOHANNESBURG

POLICE fired rubber bullets, bird-shot and tear gas to break up crowds in several incidents of violence throughout South Africa at the weekend. The unrelated incidents involved black faction fighting and attacks by blacks and Coloureds on local officials who are thought to be government collaborators.

Police Captain Henriette Bester said a town councillor in the Tokomus township, west of Johannesburg, shot a man to

death when a crowd of about 120 Coloureds tried to drag him from his home. She said police dispersed the crowd. No injuries were reported.

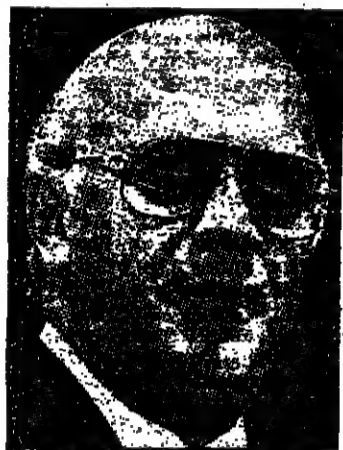
In the Bekkersdal township, near Johannesburg, groups of blacks armed with machetes, spears and clubs clashed on Saturday. One man was killed and two were seriously wounded.

A girl aged nine was seriously wounded by shrapnel in a grenade attack on the home of a civic association leader in the Tokomus township, south of Johannesburg, Miss Bester said.

The police unrest report for the previous 24 hours said two men were killed in separate incidents in eastern Natal. Police also fired on crowds at Tlidlalo, in the country's northwest, and at Ikuseng in central South Africa, said police Major Ray Harrauld.

Police also fired tear gas to disperse people who set tyres alight in Sharpeville, south of Johannesburg.

The violence came a day after President de Klerk opened the 1991 parliamentary session by proposing repeal of all remaining apartheid laws.



De Klerk: violence continues after apartheid concessions



Little girl lost: a child crying in the debris of her home, damaged during an earthquake which devastated a large part of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province on Friday. The death toll from the earthquake, which measured 6.7 on the Richter scale, has risen to more than 300 as rescue teams recovered more bodies in the snow-capped area yesterday (Zahid Hussain writes from Karachi). The toll may rise further as many of the 500 injured are said to be in a critical condition. Officials said thousands of homes were either totally destroyed or badly damaged in Malakand, Chitral, Bajaur and Hangu districts. Severe cold and heavy snowfalls aggravated the plight of victims in Chitral, where relief work could not be started. Malakand district was the worst hit with 111 people reported killed and several villages destroyed. Tremors were felt in Punjab province and parts of Afghanistan, but no casualties have been reported. Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, visited the area on Saturday and has announced a recovery programme. In the Pakistan-ruled part of Kashmir, avalanches killed 24 people.

Aid pledge puts Kaifu into the Diet firing line

FROM JOANNA FITMAN IN TOKYO

TOSHIKI Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, is being attacked from all sides. His pledge last month to provide \$9 billion (\$4.6 billion) in support for the multinational forces in the Gulf has drawn furious resistance from critics within his own Liberal Democratic Party and from all opposition parties. Japan's much-vaunted harmony has all but vanished from the Diet.

Even his electorate is going off him. His cabinet approval rating, which registered a post-war high of 62.5 per cent last August, has plummeted. The opinion polls reveal that his rating is now down to 38.6 per cent.

Until last week, Mr Kaifu's relationships with his political opponents were remarkably convivial. His daily diary (which is published in detail in all of Japan's leading newspapers) was typically full of cosy tête-à-têtes over sushi and sake. In the Japanese version of democracy, social niceties are not forgotten. But now he is faced with an international problem that will not go away and is being confronted by his first real political debate. His life has been devastated. The scripts for his normally rehearsed Diet question-and-answer sessions have disappeared.

Every day he has been bludgeoned verbally by Takako Doi, leader of the opposition Japan Socialist Party. Her accusations that he is violating Japan's pacifist constitution merely elicit warring prevarications from Mr Kaifu. When he is not being assailed with opposition taunts, he is the target of missiles. Last Wednesday two men in the observers' gallery vented their frustration at Mr Kaifu's pitiful performance by hurling their shoes at him.

Mr Kaifu, not renowned for pithy rejoinders, mustered the following: "It is just not right to throw shoes at the prime minister." These days many would disagree.

The scenes in the Diet are not what foreigners expect of Japan. There has been mockery and mimicry. This session has made even the rowdiest sittings of the House of Commons look sedate by comparison.

Japan is swept with shame. Mr Kaifu's offers of aid appear

increasingly farcical. Having trumpeted his \$9 billion promise and basked in American gratitude, he admitted last week that he could not affirm that his proposals would gain approval in the Diet, where the opposition parties control the upper house.

Even his munificent gesture of sending defence force planes to rescue refugees is floundering. It appears that the Jordanian government was not consulted before the Japanese decision was made. Now that Jordan says that it cannot guarantee security for the aircraft, Mr Kaifu may not send them after all.

Seoul fears missile attacks by North

FROM SIMON WARMER IN SEOUL

PRESIDENT Roh Tae Woo of South Korea, citing the presence of Soviet missiles within range of the whole of South Korea and the preoccupation of the United States with the Gulf, yesterday ordered the armed forces to maintain vigilance against military adventurism by North Korea.

There have been no reports of unusual troop movements, but there are fears in some circles that North Korea might take advantage of the American commitment to the liberation of Kuwait to attack South Korea.

America has 43,000 troops in South Korea and has promised that none will be redeployed in the Gulf because of the seriousness of the military threat from communist North Korea.

Mr Roh told the defence minister, Lee Jong Koo: "The possibility of North Korean provocation is higher than ever before... the armed forces should be fully prepared against any act of provocation." Citing reports that North Korea is producing Scud-B missiles that can reach all of South Korea, he called for thorough measures against missile attacks.

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Why Major should wait

Ronald Butt

Assuming the Gulf war is over by late spring, which is not to be taken for granted, and provided the opinion polls, confirmed by the May local elections, continue to give promising signals to the Conservatives, should Mr Major call a general election in June?

Because the recession will remain dire until well into 1991, many Tories want him to go quickly to the country before his popularity, which has risen sharply since the war began, wanes under the pressures of domestic economic discontent. They argue that even if interest rates are lowered (and it is unclear how long this will have been delayed by last week's rise in German interest rates), it will still be many months before there is firm evidence of a downturn in unemployment and of a business revival.

Their economic diagnosis is probably correct, but it would be a great mistake for Mr Major to opt for a June election for that reason. He could, I suppose, claim that since he was not prime minister when the Tories were elected in 1987, there is a case for appealing to the people as soon as possible for a mandate in his own right.

But apart from the fact that the mandate is a hazy concept in the British system of government, the voters would simply not believe him. They would know that the Tories had

'If he goes to the country in June, his wares will be little more than remedies for mistakes that should never have been made'

rushed to the country while the going was relatively good because the government expected it to get worse — and they would feel tricked. My guess, from Mr Major's own public words so far, is that this is also his present opinion.

Besides the economy, there is another reason why the election should wait until June 1992, the latest possible date. The Tories badly need time to reshape their thinking under their new leader, to decide where they are going, and to draw up a new prospectus. In an election this year their assets would be strictly limited and perhaps perishable.

The first of these is the advantage that Mr Major's style of speaking of the war is not Mrs Thatcher's, though there has been no difference between them in policy. The country would not have relished her triumphalist style in a war which, though it is the lesser of two evils, displays so much suffering to a watching world and will bring so many long-term risks at the end of it. Yet once the fighting is over, Mr Major has a more dignified and measured style which will prove ephemeral amid the new anxieties that then emerge.

His second advantage is that he has been seen to listen to grievances (most notably the poll tax) and to try to remedy them. Third, he appears to be a prime minister anxious to lead by consultation, especially with his cabinet — and consultation is the virtue above all others that the British have always demanded of their leaders.

Yet the fundamental fact is that Mr Major is as yet an untried prime minister, who, though he has shown himself eager to put right what is wrong, has so far had no opportunity to set out, or even

to think out, his own view of the Tory future. Four months gives him little time to do so.

We know he recognises that the poll tax as it stands will not do, but trying not to be nasty is not at all the same as succeeding in being positively nice. We know, too, that beating back inflation is, quite rightly, his overriding priority. But the return of inflation this second time since 1979 is the direct outcome of recent Conservative errors. It is not an inheritance from a Labour government or from long-standing mistaken socio-economic attitudes, as was the inflationary crisis that Mrs Thatcher successfully tackled after 1979.

What the nation wants to know now is, first, the Conservatives' strategy for keeping inflation at bay without again resorting to the second of a damaging recession. Second, there is a larger question to be answered if the voters are to be able to weigh the Tories' claim of efficient government against Mr Kinnoch's reformed Labour party. Mrs Thatcher's achievement was to put an end to the fundamental flaws that had vitiated the economy since 1945. Privatisation was accomplished and government industrial subsidies dismantled. The practice was ended of fighting even the slightest upturn in unemployment by inflationary government spending. Market criteria

have been promoted (and accepted even by Labour), and the trade union movement has been reformed so that it is now much less of a handicap to effective management.

But all this has left a fundamental question unanswered: what is to be the Tories' concept of a good society? Mrs Thatcher left the structure of the welfare state essentially untouched, but she gave the impression of feeling that, ideally, it would not exist except to provide for the minority unable to look after themselves. In a good free-market society, the rest would make their own provision.

She accepted that this was politically impracticable, yet the "no such thing as society" rhetoric came to haunt her. This is not how Mr Major thinks. He has gone out of his way to emphasise his social concern. But what in practice would he do? The government has to be much clearer than it is about the Tory balance between the individual and society — and that requires thinking about the priorities for allocating the limited amount of state money that individual taxpayers are willing to make available. We have yet to learn how the prime minister would set about dealing with a task that has defeated so many.

Mr Major has not yet had time to think, and the credit he has so far rightly earned both by his responsible demeanour in war and his comments on domestic policy may be transient.

If he goes to the country this June, his wares will be little more than a few remedies for mistakes that should never have been made. He says he will be his own man and he must therefore take time to demonstrate what that will mean. Even an election in 1992 will be cutting it fine.

Vivien Stern joins Labour in urging a change to a law that is unjust and does not deter

Keep life sentences only for the few

Tomorrow MPs considering the Criminal Justice Bill will debate a recommendation that the life sentence should no longer be mandatory for murder.

This proposal, from a House of Lords select committee, has gained increasing support inside and outside Parliament over the last 15 years and is now officially backed by both Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

The present, indeterminate life sentence (the Home Secretary decides if and when a convicted murderer will be released on licence) dates from the abolition of the death penalty in 1965. When Parliament considered the bill abolishing capital punishment, an amendment giving judges unfettered discretion in sentencing was moved in the House of Lords by Lord Parker (then Lord Chief Justice). Although supported by all the law lords, political pressure to provide a tough alternative to the death penalty resulted in the current law.

As a result, Britain has more

life-sentence prisoners than all the other countries of Western Europe put together — 3,503 compared with 2,688, according to a recent survey by the Quaker Council for European Affairs. Yet many could appropriately have been given fixed sentences. Murders vary greatly from planned and calculated killings for material gain or political motives to those committed by otherwise normal people under severe pressure and great emotional stress (including many "domestic" murders). Many in the latter category are much less of a future danger than, for example, persistently violent robbers.

Judges should be able to reflect these variations in their sentences, reserving life imprisonment for the most heinous or dangerous murderers. Offenders given the indeterminate life sentence often feel a greater sense of hopelessness than those receiving even long fixed sentences. Justice demands that we should avoid imposing this burden unnecessarily.

Judges already possess such discretion when sentencing for manslaughter. And the degree of culpability involved in some cases of manslaughter or attempted murder is greater than in some murders. Such anomalies make it impossible to defend the argument that life imprisonment is the uniquely appropriate sentence for murder.

The argument that mandatory life imprisonment is necessary for deterrence and to ensure public safety is equally unconvincing. The part which deterrence plays in offenders' calculations is much less than is commonly supposed. The most calculating killers plan to avoid detection and would do so whether life imprisonment was mandatory or discretionary. Those who kill under exceptional pressures do not normally deliberate sufficiently rationally for deterrence to have any influence. In the Australian state of Victoria, where the life sentence became discretionary in 1986, there has been no increase in homicide.

In so far as life sentences have any deterrent effect, this is reduced by the observation that they result on average in "only" 11 years' imprisonment. If the life sentence were reserved for the worst cases, for which periods in prison are much longer than the average, this would no longer be the case.

In the words of the House of Lords select committee, the fact that life imprisonment is mandatory "dilutes what should be the awe-inspiring nature of the life sentence".

The mandatory life sentence produces one other serious distortion in criminal proceedings. To enable trial judges to show humanity in appropriate cases, there is a temptation for medical witnesses, judges and juries to conclude that diminished responsibility (reducing the conviction for manslaughter) is present in some cases where this is frankly doubtful. Organisations such as Victim Support and Parents of Murdered Children favour reform of the current law in order to remove this

incentive to inappropriate manslaughter verdicts. In Victoria, following the change in the law, the number of guilty to murder pleas increased.

The present Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, and 12 out of 19 judges in the High Court and Court of Appeal favour a discretionary sentence. The House of Commons standing committee should also accept the case for reform.

Discretion in sentencing for murder would prevent the unnecessary subjection of offenders to the disadvantages of an indeterminate sentence; reinforce the awe-inspiring nature of the life sentence; check and reverse the rapid numerical build-up of "lifers" in the prison system; and produce a more just and coherent sentencing framework than the many distortions resulting from the present mandatory life sentence.

The author is director of *Nacro* — the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Bernard Levin offers his own reason for America's decision to stay at home

If it's the Gulf it must be Mexico

I loved the sight of a 747 flying from New York to London with only three passengers on board. And what a chorus of "Yah-boos, yellow-bellies!" has greeted the decision of most of the population of the United States to forgo planned visits to Britain and other European countries. But I want to put a different complexion on the wholesale cancellations — one that does not accept cowardice as the reason. The problem is not funk, but geography.

Over many years of travelling in America and scores of other lands, I have come to the conclusion that God's Own Country is, by a very wide margin indeed, the most insular nation on earth. What is more, the insularity is not of the kind which has for centuries been attributed (with a good deal of reason) to us, and in a somewhat different way to the French. Our insularity is partly boasting, partly contempt for other countries' different customs, and partly the conviction that every other country is out to swindle us.

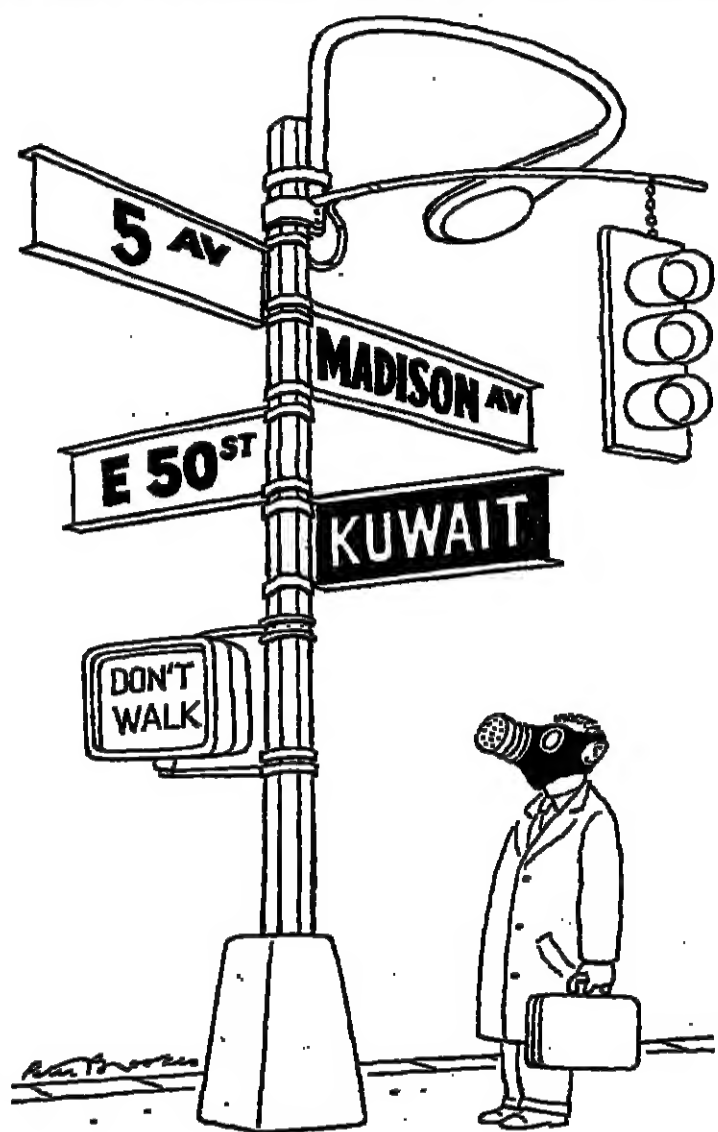
On the whole, the Americans are refreshingly free of such attitudes; indeed, they are so trusting that they are probably the number one suckers for con-men throughout the world, and their reaction when they meet a situation unknown to back home is touchingly bewildered rather than angry. No American insularity, and hence the present headline flight from flying, is based on a truly stupefying ignorance. Americans know that if they go far enough westward in their own country they will come to the Pacific Ocean, and if they go to the limit eastwards they will find the Atlantic. And that is practically all most of them do know.

Well, they know about Canada, because it is sitting on top of them, and they know there is a thing

called Latin America, because it is attached to them; they know there is another thing called Asia (though few of them know where it is), because the Vietnam war took place there. They have heard of Africa, but they think it is near to Asia; they have only a hazy idea where the Soviet Union is located. And the whole of the rest of the world, including the Middle East, the Antipodes and Scandinavia, are located in a place called Yerp. I tell you, and I am not joking, that most Americans truly believe that Baghdad is a couple of hours' drive from London.

Landing at Heathrow from New York some years ago, there being no vacant "stands", we had to deplane and be bussed to the terminal. An elderly American gentleman, as the vehicle lumbered off, could be heard plaintively enquiring: "Does this bus go to the Savoy, does this bus go to the Savoy?" I got near enough to him to point out that before he could check in at the Savoy, he would have to go through immigration and customs procedures, but I must have saved my breath, for all he could understand. He was, obviously, used to flying within the United States, where indeed you walk off the plane without any formalities, and it had not crossed his mind that when visiting other countries, other rules apply.

You wave such ideas irritably away. Very well, but then tell me whether there is any other country in the world whose citizens, wherever they are, so frequently proffer their own currency in hotels and shops and are first amazed, then become truly alarmed, when told they will have to change their dollars for the local money. I must insist that this attitude is not based on any theory



of the Master Race, of which I have found very little evidence in America. It is, I say again, their implacably total ignorance of where the rest of the world is, let alone how it lives. The very idea of distance is alien to them: when the Gulf war started, a Los Angeles store that sold gas-masks was cleaned out of its entire stock of several thousands within two days. The customers were not cowards; since Kuwait was almost certainly a few miles off the Californian coast, it was only prudent to take precautions. Do not believe that such attitudes exist only in times of war or other crises. Read the American

newspapers, even the few "quality" ones, and you will find that you can turn several hundred pages without finding any reference to anything that is happening in Yerp. Again, this is not contempt for lesser breeds; it is the knowledge in the mind of the editor that none of his readers (or, to be fair, he) would have any idea at all, however approximate, where to find, on a map of Yerp, London, Riyadh, Durck, Sydney, Helsinki, Bovol, Edinburgh, Tahiti, Amman, Paris, Gitanes, Brussels, Tehran, Xerox, Qom, Amsterdam, Esperanto, Warsaw, Beirut, Aquavit, Cairo, Horlicks, Berlin, Athens, Marmite, Prague,

Tapio, Oslo or Harrods. But although none of them could point to these places on the map, there would be agreement that every city in the list could be found in Yerp, within 200 miles of London. In those circumstances, it is only reasonable that people should stay away from the war-zone if their presence there is not urgently needed; it is obvious that any attempt to assure stay-at-home Americans that the map is not quite like that is bound to fail.

What we should be asking, though only out of curiosity, is how this bizarre hole in American knowledge came to be there. I suppose the very size of the United States militates against knowing or caring that there is a world elsewhere. Particularly in Yerp (the real Yerp), we feel frontiers all round us; even Britain, whose frontiers are in the sea, does not think herself a separate continent. But that is not only because we are all part of Yerp; it is because from the Irish Republic to the western borders of the Soviet Union, each sovereign state, measured by area, could be amply accommodated by two or three of the States of the Union.

Those who live in a country which has half-a-dozen time-zones, and demands, if you want to cross it from one side to the other, much the same number of hours as it takes to fly across the Atlantic, will inevitably come to think that their country is the world. This does not necessarily lead to a contempt for smaller nations, but it must certainly lead to a belief that the United States contains so much of the world that there is no need to examine much less learn about the rest of it. When the man on the airport bus, whence the conviction that if this is Tuesday it must be Belgium; whence the consternation displayed by Americans in London wanting to go by Underground and unable to understand that our method of doing so is different from that in New York. And whence the charges of cowardice.

This leads to an intriguing question which I must ask, risking charges of bad taste as I do so. No one could possibly think that the American soldiers, sailors and airmen in the Gulf are cowards. But — or — do they know exactly where they are?

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

"THE BEST story of all." So Youlgrave Pantomime Company promoted *Cinderella*, its 1991 production. For the 200 of us packed into the great, cavernous, three-hour, Gulf-free zone. Youlgrave is a Derbyshire village. Its annual pantomime plays for almost a fortnight. The audience arrives by the coach load from miles around and the show gets better every year. So let's be clear: I'm not knocking the pantomime. It was splendid. It's the whole *Cinderella* story that worries me. It has worried me since I was a child. The roles are unexplained, the plot is awry, and the moral dubious.

They lob you off with things when you are a kid, but you notice. You notice that you are asked to take the side of the Three Little Pigs against the Wolf, and then your mother gives you roast pork for dinner. You notice that no tears are shed for Grandma, who is summarily eaten, but we are all supposed to get agitated about the safety of silly Little Red Riding Hood.

You notice the way Good and Wicked Fairies are hailed in, *deus ex machina*, when the storyteller is too lazy to invent more credible ways of advancing the plot. You notice that powers to cast spells are accorded only when this suits the action. Why the Good Fairy does not simply come on and banish the naughty people and put things permanently right at the very beginning is a question to which your mum — and, later, your Scripture teacher — never

gives you a satisfactory answer. These and many other things you notice, and resolve that when you grow up you will bring them to the attention of the authorities.

Then you do grow up. And you find that you are the authorities, and the pressure is on you to defend the status quo, and anyway you need a job, and a mortgage, and a girlfriend, and your acne's playing up, and life closes in, and you're done for. Well, my acne's gone, I've paid my mortgage, I don't want a girlfriend, and I am not done for. I am going back to basics. I want to know why *Cinderella*'s parents were so horrid to her. It is never explained. Her father, an early victim of high interest rates, obviously loves her, so why doesn't he stand up to the Ugly Sisters? What a wimp! And where does his wife stand? Surely she, not her two nasty daughters, is the real villain?

Then there's Buttons. Now, no beating about the bush: is he or isn't he? Is he "like a brother" that he loves her, or is he physically interested? If he is, then surely *Cinderella* is a tragedy. Buttons, who really loves her, is upstaged when his girl's head is turned by a yuppie — a toff, who could have had any girl he wanted. What sort of compensation do you think all that rubbish about becoming a manservant to the royal couple would be? Salt into the wound! Or is a *ménage à trois* being hinted at: a touch of the rough for Cinders, and perhaps Prince Charming too?

The pumpkin I can believe, but how does Buttons rustle up the white mice, the rats and the lizard at a moment's notice in winter? And why midnight? Anyone who can do this sort of thing with rats can surely extend Cinders' bedtime. If the Fairy Godmother can turn a coach into a pumpkin, why didn't she turn the Ugly Sisters into toads years ago, saving a great deal of unnecessary pain?

Then there's the slipper. Why glass? *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* says it's a mistranslation of *panloisne en vair* (fur slipper) not *en verre* (glass). Presumably a fur slipper sounded a bit too British Home Stores for an English audience. But why was Cinders' the only foot it fitted?

Like other practical inconsistencies this is not explained. Yet my strongest objection to this tale is not practical, but moral: almost theological. Is virtue its own reward, and is that reason enough? The Church, and our whole moral culture, hedges a most critical issue.

Why should girls who are put upon bear their fate cheerfully? Because it is right? Or because it increases the chance that their prince will come? If in hope of reward, is that really virtue, or only prudence? There could hardly be a more important ethical question: can we, should we, count on being rewarded, now or later, for the virtuous life? If not, why did they mention future reward so often?

Cinderella, and, indeed, the Gospels, fudge this question, in my view disgracefully.

How will Carey cope?

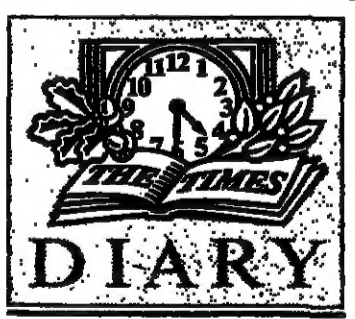
While the Church of England is without an Archbishop of Canterbury until George Carey's enthronement in April, church watchers are looking for an early indication of the style and direction of the new ministry from the preparations he is making for the ceremony.

When Dr Runcie was elevated in 1980 he stuck rigidly to tradition and was enthroned amid fanfares of trumpets and massed choirs. Surrounded by white lilies and walls of daffodils, he wore a luxurious gold mitre and tailor-made cope of wild silk studded with amethyst-coloured beads. Anglican traditionalists had hoped for something equally grand in April. But Dr Carey, who once fashioned a dog collar out of a British Rail white plastic tray, has now raised doubts about what he calls "the trappings of worship".

In an interview to be published next month in a revised edition of the book *Believing Bishops*, he criticises expensive and elaborate vestments. "I much prefer simple robes," he says. "There is a nagging doubt that we might be sending out the signal that we talk about being servants but the robes we wear actually shout 'but we are the important ones'."

Dr Carey's comments have prompted speculation about how far he will fly in the face of tradition, for he has just commissioned designers to produce a completely new set of made-to-measure vestments for his enthronement ceremony. "Dr Carey will not be wearing the vestments used at the last enthronement," says a Lambeth Palace spokesman. "He has his own ideas."

Not that Dr Carey's taste for simplicity extends to all areas of ecclesiastical life. When he was



appointed Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1987, the diocesan synod discussed selling the bishop's palace and providing more humble accommodation. Dr Carey, who is proud of his Degenham council-house upbringing, could scarcely conceal his relief at the rejection of the idea: "It would imply that the bishop was no longer a person of account in society, while a smaller and more modest house would not, of itself, make the bishop more accessible."

● The landscape gardeners who redesigned the grounds of Lambeth Palace have told Rosalind Runcie they will do the same, free, for her new garden at St Albans. The offer has led to some dispute between the Runcies. "My husband said it might be nice to have some grass," says Mrs Runcie. "I said that was fine, as long as he can't. He thought about that for a moment and said, 'Isn't there somebody else who could?' Yes, that somebody is me, and I'm not going to."

All in the family

Husband and wife Timothy West and Prunella Scales, whose careers can keep them apart for months at a time, will be seeing plenty of each other for the next few months — on stage in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Although opening on Valentine's Day (at the Bristol Old

Vic, before moving to the National in London), the tale of a miser nostalgic for his days of teenage-idol glory and his drug-addict wife is hardly the most cheerful vehicle for any stage couple. "No, it's not particularly romantic," concedes West, "but it is strong and compassionate. It's nice for us to have the opportunity for a few meals together as well" — many of them afloat, for during the five-week Bristol run, the Wests are getting away from it all by returning nightly to their boat moored on the Kennet and Avon canal.

On their first Sunday off during the run, the couple, both committed socialists, had agreed to appear in a benefit for the Labour party at the Adelphi theatre, in London. Now not even that will interrupt their domestic bliss. Because of the Gulf war, it has been cancelled.

Picture politics

Edward Heath is in danger of being taken down a peg or two at the Carlton Club when it reopens in May following last year's IRA bomb attack. After the repairs, the Conservative bastion plans to relaunch its paintings. One idea being consid-



ered is to move Heath's portrait, now placed prominently in the drawing room, to make way for a new portrait of the Club's former

chairman, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, by the Irish artist Dickey Swan. Boyd-Carpenter, who is 82, is anxious not to be drawn into the argument. "I am delighted with the painting," he says, "and imagine it will be hung in the drawing room." But exactly where, he will not conjecture.

If Heath's portrait is moved, it is worth recalling that it was Boyd-Carpenter who persuaded Harold Macmillan to appoint Mrs Thatcher to her first ministerial job as part of his team at the ministry of pensions in 1961, and so launched her on the road to power. Mischiefous voices at the Carlton suggest there could be no-one more appropriate than Boyd-Carpenter's old protégé to unveil the new portrait.

Buy gum

One small point of patriotic pride in the Gulf: on the burgeoning black market in army ration packs, the British squaddie's superior version, with double the calorific content and much-envied bars of chocolate, has an exchange value of ten to one against its inferior American counterpart.

Disclaiming the oldest army recipe of all ("stumpy the entire contents of ration pack into mess tin and stir"), a veritable platoon of budding Keith Floys has sprung up among the British troops. "The soldiers are always messing around with their ration packs to come up with new recipes," says the MoD.

Now cookery writer Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has devised a chocolate biscuit cake recipe for our boys, made solely with ingredients from the ration pack. But the true reason for the black-market popularity of the British packs is entirely non-nutritional: only they, strangely, contain chewing gum, that great staple of the all-American male without which no GI could think of going into battle.



CURBING THE ARMS TRADE

The Middle East, according to Douglas Hurd, "is in danger of descending into a terrible arms race" and, in his speech to the Blaby Conservative Association at the weekend he promised that something would be done about it. There is, of course, nothing new about deploring the competitive sale of arms. The debate on the matter between the idealistic disarmers and the worldly-wise manufacturers was at least a century old when George Bernard Shaw devoted *Arms and the Man* to the subject.

What is refreshing is that the foreign secretary is now taking the argument so seriously. The trade in arms for profit has rarely preoccupied his predecessors. They all deplored the trade in principle. But in practice, they have tended to argue that if Britain does not provide the arms, someone else will.

Mr Hurd's new and more positive approach reflects two changes in the world. The declining threat from the Soviet Union reduces the fear that a failure to supply will deliver third world countries to communism. And public opinion has been shocked by the sight of the allies' own forces being killed by equipment which they have sold to Iraq. The rhetoric of the new world order, essential to keep the allies united, has to make it clear that this war is being fought for a high purpose. The public wants this war to end. The politicians must respond.

The Middle Eastern arms race began decades ago. It took place despite repeated if half-hearted Western commitments to restrain their arms salesmen and to police exports of strategic components, tools and technology. There have always been loopholes such as permits for "nonlethal" or "defensive" weapons, or commitments to "existing contracts", for arms traders to exploit. All western governments have let some sensitive "dual use" technology reach Iraq. What value, then, can be placed on renewed western vows?

Mr Hurd appears to distinguish between sales of conventional arms to enable countries "to defend themselves" (an easily exploited caveat) and the imperative need to contain the spread of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Yet with its conven-

tional arsenal alone, Iraq has posed a threat to peace so grave as to force the assembly of half a million troops armed with the world's most advanced non-nuclear weapons.

Even now, an effective system of arms control will be difficult to put in place and even harder to enforce. The oil-exporters are an almost irresistible market for arms traders. Western defence industries, particularly in Europe, have become heavily reliant on exports to finance research and development. An agreement in principle not to arm the combatants in the Iran-Iraq war was ignored by no fewer than 53 countries, more than half of which armed both sides. American controls over arms sales to Arab countries will be controversial so long as it maintains supplies to Israel. Eastern Europe, desperate for foreign currency, is bursting with surplus weaponry. Many Third World countries are now in the arms export market, many of them with missile technology.

There is a way where there is a will, witness the West's years of success in denying sensitive technology to the Soviet bloc through the co-ordinating committee for multilateral export controls (CoCom). That committee could serve as a model. But it would be difficult to give CoCom itself a North-South role, since China and the Soviet Union are still targets of restrictions. The membership and remit of the Missile Technology Control Regime, so far limited to a handful of western countries, the G-7 group of industrialised western countries, Spain and the Benelux countries, could be broadened. James Baker's proposal for joint US-Soviet arms control committees could be expanded, to include the five permanent members of the UN security council.

All such arrangements — even backed by severe sanctions against illegal exports — can do little to make illicit trade in arms slower, more difficult, and expensive. If the price is right, some traffickers will beat any ban. But controls could buy time for regional confidence-building, perhaps by adapting to the Middle East the European Conference on Security and Co-operation. Middle Eastern hatreds mean that will take time, which is all the more reason to find ways of curbing the world's second-oldest profession now.

UNBLESSSED RELIEF

Mortgage interest tax relief is an abomination. It relieves the taxpayers' pockets of £7.8 billion a year, and without it, the standard rate of income tax could be reduced to below 20p in the pound. It underlies the treacherous cycle of boom-and-bust in the housing market by subsidising purchasers to pile in when the market is rising. It adds to the price of land, increasing the speculative rewards for those granted planning permission for house building.

Exempting mortgage interest from income tax redistributes wealth from the non-home owning (and on average poorer) one-third of the community to the home owning (and on average richer) two-thirds of the population. It then further redistributes wealth to better-off home owners. In 1989 it was worth on average £560 to those with an income between £10,000 and £15,000 a year but twice that to those on £40,000. In a rational and non-political world, any sane Chancellor would abolish it tomorrow.

Norman Lamont will not do that, not in the run-up to an election; but at least this year the debate which invariably rages before the budget is proving more fruitful than usual. Margaret Thatcher berated her chancellors over their failure to raise the ceiling for the relief, but they fended her off. Sir Geoffrey Howe gave way once in 1983, raising the ceiling from £25,000 to £30,000.

In 1991, with an ex-chancellor at 10 Downing Street, the debate rages more widely. The ceiling would now be £45,000 if it had kept in step with inflation since 1983. An increase to £40,000 would cost a further £800 million a year. The building societies are pushing for such an increase, but it hardly seems likely that the door that remained closed despite Mrs Thatcher's hammering will be forced open by Mr Major. Moreover, for all the Treasury talk

about a fixed ceiling leading to the relief "withering on the vine", its cost has continued to rise — from £2.2 billion a year when the ceiling was set to an estimated £7.8 billion in 1990-91.

The serious proposals which are being actively canvassed, either for the coming budget or for the next Tory manifesto, concern ways of cutting the relief. If straightforward abolition is too daring, should it be abolished for new purchasers? Should the extra relief given to higher-rate taxpayers be withdrawn, as the Labour party has long argued? Could help be concentrated on families with dependent children?

The doctrine of unripe time will be played in aid against all such proposals. The builders will point to the current recession in construction, highlighted by yesterday's report from the Building Employers' Federation. The building societies will cite record levels of repossession. More influential than either, backbenchers in the margins will tell Mr Major that they that bath will mean if relief be taken away, while they that bath will give no thanks for anything given unto them. They want him to do nothing in the budget and to say nothing in the manifesto.

The time is always unripe. When house prices are going up, voters demand more subsidy to afford them. When house prices are stable, they want more subsidy to get the market moving again. The government has always either just fought an election when it would be wrong to introduce new policies not in the manifesto, or is suffering the mid-term blues when it dare not risk unpopular policies, or is about to fight an election. At the very least, the new Chancellor should have the courage forthwith to end higher-rate relief, as an earnest of his intent to do even better in a Conservative fourth term.

COUNTRY CARBUNCLES

Unless he farms in a national park, a farmer is free to erect any blot on the landscape he likes. As long as he calls it a farm building he can make it 50 feet high and paint it dayglo orange. Because of one of the least logical anomalies of planning law, there is no statutory control of new building "for farming purposes" no matter how unsightly. Yet the case for planning control in the countryside is stronger even than in urban areas.

Because of this exemption the appearance of Britain's rural landscape is slowly deteriorating. The countryside is littered with ugly sheds, huts and silos. They are often insensitively sited, built from crude materials incompatible with their surroundings, in shapes and sizes more suitable to a wartime airfield or modern chemical plant. The term "factory farming" is apposite not only for what goes on inside such buildings but for what they look like. If the trend is not arrested the appearance of Britain's countryside will suffer irreversible damage.

The government has at last admitted as much. In October, the environment department published a consultative document, setting out new proposals for the control of agricultural development. But they reflected respect for the redoubtable power of the agriculture ministry to protect the farmers' interests more than any commitment to the visual quality of the countryside.

The document suggested the extension to the whole country of the additional control over farm buildings hitherto confined to

national parks. But as the Council for the Protection of Rural England points out in a report published today, these extra national park controls are not exactly stringent. They leave farmers with their exemption from planning law, their "permitted development rights", still intact. Rather than applying this tame method of control everywhere else the government should be looking for stricter controls on farmers in national parks too.

As in national parks now, the environment department is proposing that farmers should be required to give a month's notice of new building work to their local authority, which could then step in and order them not to proceed until the design and appearance of the new building had been approved. But the authority could not stop the development altogether, so undermining its position in any subsequent negotiations with the farmer. The local community would have no right to be informed or consulted. And farmers are left with a useful loophole for outmanoeuvring planning control on non-agricultural development.

The privileged exemption of agriculture from planning law may have seemed justified in the days when home-grown food production was a national priority. Today agriculture is just one more business — though with exceptional power to blight the rural scene — and should be treated as such. Full planning control should be extended to farm development just as it applies now to housing and industry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The threat of terrorism and fear of travelling abroad

From Dr Robert McGeehan

Sir, Your leading article of January 28, "Americans afraid", confused prudence with pusillanimity. It is quite mistaken to argue that the best defence against terror is to refuse to be terrorised by it. On the contrary, we should take whatever measures might reduce the likelihood of its occurrence on the one hand, and the chance of being a victim on the other.

It may afford some paltry satisfaction to brave Europeans to learn that macho American movie stars are afraid to fly over for the Terry Wogan show or that it is statistically safer in Riyadh than in Washington, but to suggest as you do that sensible American behaviour at home undermines the morale of the troops on the front is grossly to distort the situation.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MCGEEHAN
(Chairman, Policy Committee, Republicans Abroad (UK)),
Cooks Corner Farm,
Freeland, Oxford.
January 29.

From the Chairman of the British Incoming Tour Operators' Association

Sir, No one suggests that our countries are at war to fill Clarke's (John Clarke's letter, January 30). One might, however, maintain that giving in to an irrational fear of travel — whether by Americans, Germans, Swedes, Japanese, covering British bulldogs or others — is giving in to Saddam Hussein's blatant attempt to create precisely such a climate of insecurity.

Last week the *Chicago Tribune* stated that the risk of an individual being affected by an act of terrorism is only marginally higher than that of being kidnapped by a UFO and less than that of choking on a snail in a café near the Louvre. It would be encouraging, Sir, if all responsible

newspapers were to take up this positive line rather than making negative remarks about our chief ally.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH DALE, Chairman,
The British Incoming Tour Operators' Association,
18a Coulson Street, SW3,
January 30.

From Mr Richard C. McFarlane

Sir, Please know that my wife and I, from Tallahassee, Florida, are here on vacation doing our duty to England. True, many people, true addicts of the media, urged us to stay home. After all, the media, which has made a point of terrifying itself and its patrons over the war, has warned we would be kidnapped or suffer death with refinements if we left the United States. But here we are.

So how about a few kind words for those of us who do not believe the matters of your professional peers? They are the cause of the problem and they should receive the barb at the end of your editorial lash — not the poor things who believe them.

With best regards,
RICHARD C. MCFARLANE,
The Washington,
Curzon Street, W1,
January 28.

From Professor John Algeo

Sir, Quite right about those feckless, cowardly Americans who are shirking their obligation to support the British economy by bringing their money home. However, look on the bright side. Perhaps they can be persuaded to ship over their dollars while they stay home themselves. Isn't that what you want?

Yours etc.,
JOHN ALGEO,
As from: University of Georgia,
Department of English,
Athens, Georgia 30602, USA,
January 28.

Palestinian's detention

From Mr E. C. Hodgkin

Sir, All those who know Professor Sari Nusseibeh must be appalled by the news (report, January 30, later editions) that he has been carried off from his home by Israeli troops and, according to other reports, sentenced to six months "administrative detention". The excuse given for this action, that he had passed on to "various elements" details of where Iraqi missiles had landed, is, as he said, "particularly ludicrous", since from his house near Bethany almost nothing is visible and he has been confined there by barbed wire since the war in the Gulf started.

The more probable reason for his detention is that he represents the voice of moderate and reasonable Palestinians, which the authorities wish to silence, preferring that the world should see all Palestinians as strident and unreasoning partisans of Saddam Hussein. Professor Nusseibeh has consistently encouraged and taken part in a dialogue with those Israelis who, like him, believe that a way must be found whereby the two communities can live together in justice and amity; indeed, he had such a meeting a few hours before his arrest — perhaps no coincidence.

It is to be hoped that the British and American governments, and indeed all those who wish for a peaceful settlement in the Holy Land, will protest effectively against this stupid and arbitrary act.

Yours sincerely,
E. C. HODGKIN,
Flat 7, 39 Egerton Gardens, SW3,
February 1.

Theatre cuts

From Mrs Anzeka Navrátilová

Sir, We at Malá Scená, a youth theatre with over 150 members in Zlín, Moravia, find it strangely ironic that, at a time when the Czechoslovaks are beginning to struggle with democracy and a new openness in education, the British theatre companies which have supported and encouraged us over many years should be threatened with a 33 per cent cut in funding from each of its two local education authorities, Greenwich and Lewisham.

In 1978 we enjoyed our first encounter with Greenwich Young People's Theatre (GYPT). Since then we have taken part in four youth-theatre exchanges supported by the British Council and had regular visits from professional members of GYPT, who have led seminars and workshops with our young people and their leaders. Their methodology has become a major influence on our work, and the value of their support during a time of both artistic and educational suppression cannot be overstated.

We are a new democracy with very severe financial problems, but we believe that what resources are available must be invested in our young people if our future is to be assured. We sincerely hope that, despite the economic situation faced by education authorities in Britain, ways will be found not only to sustain but to extend the work of theatre companies like GYPT.

Yours faithfully,
ANZEKA NAVRÁTILOVÁ
(Leader), Malá Scená,
Lidová škola umění Zlín,
Zlín, Czechoslovakia.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Curriculum choice

From Mr T. K. Stratford

Sir, The press has generally welcomed the secretary of state's announcement about lifting the GCSE requirements for all subjects except English, mathematics and science at stage four (14-16 years) of the national curriculum (report, January 5). It seems to be generally assumed that those schools which offer a lot of choice to their students at the age of 14 represent good practice which Mr Clarke's decision has vindicated. In fact his turnaround represents a massive loss of confidence by the government in its national curriculum.

Those schools which had established a broad and balanced curriculum for all students to the age of 16, often in the face of parental misunderstanding and sectional opposition, have been badly let down just when it seemed that a long campaign to broaden the base of

education and training after 16 was about to be won.

Her Majesty's Inspector in their report of 1979, "Aspects of secondary education", clearly identified the main failing of the English public education system as early specialisation. I and many of my colleagues have been struggling to reverse this practice for the past 17 years, ever since the raising of the school-leaving age gave us a chance of curing the malaise of prematurely abandoned learning. Our enemies have always been the certificate accumulators, those schools who know that a "horror for courses" policy produces the maximum number of apparent successes.

Ever since GCSE O-level examinations became the currency for entry to higher education a proliferation of subject certificates has underwritten the gross assumption that all GCSE subjects are equally necessary and equally valuable at 16. Accordingly, generations of students and

Copyright for television shows

From Lord Willis and others

Sir, Those of us who write film and television scripts, books, plays, and newspaper articles have long enjoyed the protection of English copyright law.

We have followed with interest the campaign currently being waged in Parliament by other creators, particularly those of formatted television programmes. The formats of hugely popular shows like *Mastermind*, *This Is Your Life*, *Bullseye*, *Blind Date* and *Challenge Anneka* are now open to outright theft or plagiarism. It is these long-running series, economically produced, which attract the large audiences, who in turn fund the vastly more expensive dramas, documentaries and news on British television.

Together we write in support of the pressure presently being applied to the Department of Trade and Industry from all sides of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords — a pressure for the amendment to the recent Copyright Act providing protection for the creators of TV formats which is now long overdue.

When more than 100 MPs led by Roger Gale (Con), Nigel Griffiths (Lab) and Charles Kennedy (Lib Dem), are convinced of the need for change, the DTI should either facilitate their efforts or convince both them, the House and the nation that plagiarism of game-show formats is an acceptable practice and that a change is unnecessary, therefore leaving the authors' works unprotected and open to theft as they are today.

Yours etc.,
TED WILLIS,
NORMAN NEWELL,
JOHN WRIGHT,
WILLIAM G. STEWART,
JACK TINKER,
DENNIS MAIN WILSON,
MICHAEL WINNER,
PO Box 15, London NW1 5RY.

their parents have learned to minimise their certainties and hide their weaknesses. In this process they have been supported by subject specialists, who advance the claim that success at 18 can only be achieved by study before 16. That in fact is true of few subjects.

With the announcement of a national curriculum it looked as if someone was at last prepared to wield the axe and clear a broad way through for all students to 16. The defection of the secretary of state means that many parents and schools will continue to encourage early specialisation. Why could not Kenneth Clarke show the courage of his predecessors and establish a truly national curriculum for all at 16?

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR STRATFORD
(Principal),
Birstall Longside College,
Wentley Lane, Birstall, Leicestershire.

Cars v. trains

From Mr Rupert Baker

Sir, When at Radley in the sixties I was always somewhat surprised at one of the master's cursing "Jehu" whenever another driver cut him up on the road (letters, January 22, 26, 30, 31).

What appeared as a form of blasphemy was in fact a biblical reference to one of the world's first roadhogs — "... and the driving is like the driving of Jehu, the son of Nimsi, for he driveth furiously" (Kings 2:2-20).

As master in charge of golf he was also heard to mutter the same oath on the fairways as yet another youthful thrash ended in the trees.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT BAKER,
9 rue Charcot,
Neuilly-sur-Seine,
92200 France.

Payment by dollar

From Dr Bent Juel-Jensen

Sir, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (January 26) is quite correct in saying that the Maria Theresa dollar was widely accepted in the Horn of Africa (and incidentally also in North Yemen) "provided the date (1756) is correct". Unfortunately he has got that little detail wrong. He would have been in real trouble in those parts unless his large silver coins bore the date 1780. That most were minted long after Maria Theresa's demise is another matter.

I am, etc.,
BENT JUEL-JENSEN,
Monckton Cottage,
56 Old High Street,
Headington, Oxford,
January 26.

Reform of CAP

From Ms A. S. Monk and Mr S. T. Parsons

Sir, While we agree with Mr Gary Crossley (January 30) that the proposed common agricultural policy reforms may discriminate against UK farmers whose businesses are on average larger than those of their continental counterparts, we would take issue with him on two points.

There are in fact five objectives of the CAP: increased productivity, ensuring a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, stabilising markets, assuring availability of supplies and reasonable prices to consumers.

Meeting the other objectives may conflict with the financial interests of farmers. We would suggest that

ensuring adequate supplies for the EC as a whole at reasonable prices to consumers does not require 100 per cent self-sufficiency in every commodity in each member state. This is after all a common and not a national agricultural policy.

Finally, the figures quoted for UK self-sufficiency are misleading. They refer to all food and feed consumed, not all of which could sensibly be produced here (e.g. bananas). We are in fact 75 per cent self-sufficient in indigenous food and feed. At UK accession to the EC in 1973 this figure was less than 70 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON MONK,
STEVE PARSONS,
Harper Adams Agricultural College,
Newport, Shropshire,
January 30.

Ebb or flow

From Mr Anthony Hussey

Sir, Mr Gould-Hacker (January 26) questions the likely direction of flow in the London ring water main. In the northern hemisphere the Coriolis effect, caused by the Earth's rotation, would make the direction anti-clockwise.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HUSSEY,
1 Pelhams Close,
Essex, Surrey.

From Mr H. Marchant

Sir, Suppose the main is filled to the top and allowed to settle without pumping. The Earth underneath London rotates in an anti-clockwise direction (relative to the Pole Star) but this ring of water is free to move independently due to its massive inertia.

It should therefore rotate in a clockwise direction relative to someone standing in central London.

Yours faithfully,
H. MARCHANT,
90 Peaslands Road,
Sidmouth, Devon.

From Mr S. A. Cheetham

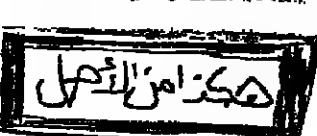
Sir, The answer to Mr Gould-Hacker's question is that it will depend whether he views the water main from above or below.

Yours faithfully,
S. ARTHUR CHEETHAM,
68 Craithie Road,
Vicars Cross, Chester.

From Mr J. Pearson Smith

Sir, Mr Gould-Hacker may like to know that no such question arises with electricity. Alternating current (AC) electricity has been flowing in ring mains under London and elsewhere for many years now.

Yours faithfully,
J. PEARSON SMITH,
5 Broad Gap, Bodicote,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 2: This afternoon, The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, attended the Scotland v Wales International match at Murrayfield and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).
Afterwards, Her Royal Highness, President, British Olympic Association, departed for Zwenhof, Bavaria, to attend the Army Battalion Meeting.
The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 2: The Duke of Kent, Patron of the British Mesenteric Guild, this evening attended a Reception at the Eiffel Tower, Paris.
Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

SANDRINGHAM
February 3: Divine Service was held in West Newton Parish church this morning.
The Reverend Canon George Hall preached the sermon.

Birthdays today

Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore, 70; Mr C.H. Black, chairman, Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, 61; the Hon Sir Clive Bosson, former MP, 73; Dr P.E. Thompson Hancock, ophthalmologist, 87; Lord Hailam, 68; the Earl of Hillsborough, 32; Mr R.C. Hoban, writer, 66; the Marquess of Huntly, 47; Mr Steve Knight, jockey, 36; Mr Erich Leusden, conductor, 75; the Hon Mrs Ray Mudge, MP, 77; Lord Moncreiff, 76; Mr Stanley Newman, MEP, 61; Mr Charles Pollard, chief constable, Thames Valley, 46; Mr Richard Ryder, MP, 42; Lord Stawston, QC, 89; Mr John Wilson, managing director, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 48; the Most Rev Derek Worlock, Archbishop of Liverpool, 71.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Polish patriot, Mercezczyzna, 1746; William Harrison Ainsworth, novelist, Manchester 1805; Ferdinand Legu, painter, Argentina, France, 1881; Edwin Pratt, poet, Western Bay, Newfoundland, 1883; Ugo Betti, dramatist, Camerino, Italy, 1892; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Protestant theologian, Breslau, 1906.

DEATHS: Lucius Sertorius Severus, Roman emperor, 193-211; John Rogers, Protestant martyr, burnt at the stake, London, 1555; Robert Koldewey, architect, who excavated Babylon, Berlin, 1925; Edward Sapir, anthropologist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1939; Karen Carpenter, singer, 1953.

The Yale conference of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, 1945.

Marriages

Mr A. Bello Garcia and Miss L.P. Shuldham
The engagement is announced between Alfred, only son of Señor and Señora J.A. Bello, of Madrid, Spain, and Lucy, younger daughter of Major and Mrs E.T.G. Shuldham, of Ealing, London.

Mr N.G.G. Heppenstall and Miss K. Marcom
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Brigadier and Mrs F.G.D. Heppenstall, of Lynton, Devon, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Marcom, of Twickenham, Middlesex.

Marriages

Mr R. Flower and Miss K. Cary
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Basil Hersov, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Katherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Todd Cary, of San Francisco, California.

Mr P.W. Newell and Miss V.M. Cumming
The engagement is announced between Peter William, younger son of the late Tom Newell, of Dublin, Ireland, and Valerie Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Cumming, of Stirling, Essex.

Marriages

Mr G.J. Rafferty and Miss C.J. Campbell
The engagement is announced between Gerard, son of Mr Richard Rafferty, of Belfast, and of Mrs Elizabeth Rafferty, of Glasgow, and Candia, younger daughter of Sir Ilay of Succoth, Bt, and Lady Campbell, of Crace, Argyll.

Marriages

Mr J.D. Duncan and Miss J.M. Todd
The marriage took place on Sunday, February 3, 1991, at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Mr James Duncan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Russell Duncan, of London, and of Miss Judith Todd, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Todd, of London.

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OBITUARIES

COLONEL 'MONTY' WESTROPP

Colonel Lionel Henry Mountfort Westropp, soldier, died on January 26 aged 94. He was born on February 20, 1896.

THE bearing of Monty Westropp in situations of extreme peril when the spirits of many around him were downcast is graphically epitomised in the recollections of the Canadian historian Walter Lord in his book *The Miracle of Dunkirk*. "The long shadow of tradition was now very much in evidence. When Colonel Lionel H. M. Westropp ordered the 8th King's Own Royal Regiment to head down the beach towards the mole he first assembled his officers. He reminded them that they were the badge of one of the oldest regiments of the line. 'We therefore will represent the regiment as we march down the beach this afternoon. We must not let it down.' As Lord recalls, the battalion set off in perfect step, arms swinging in unison, rifles correctly slung and in immaculate marching order. It was a sight which put fresh heart into the many fearfully battered and demoralised units who witnessed it.

Westropp was already a veteran of war and adversity by the time the second world war broke out. He came from a military family and was educated at Clifton and Sandhurst. In April 1915 he was commissioned into the Devonshire Regiment. A year later he was commanding a company at the Battle of the Somme, all officers senior to him having been killed. Amid scenes of fearful carnage which required men to attack fixed positions heavily defended with wire and machine guns, young officers like Westropp either grew up fast or succumbed to the mental strain of having to send men to their deaths in what Basil Liddell-Hart has called "that human sump-pit". Many brave men cracked but Westropp never flinched from even the most appalling decisions. On one occasion a major in an adjacent unit was being, terrified, to the rear and causing panic among the soldiers around him. Without hesitation Westropp then mere 2nd lieutenant, drew his pistol and brought the officer down. Westropp then called his sergeant major to him, and together they reformed their shaken company and turned their faces towards the enemy in front.

Several days afterwards Westropp was severely wounded in the head and



had to be sent to hospital. He spent some months there but was back at the front in time to participate in the Arras offensive of April 1917, yet another of those unequal contests between human flesh and steel and high explosive to which the first world war provides such melancholy testimony. Westropp took part in the fierce fighting which developed around Fresnoy, east of Vimy, in which Canadian and British regiments took the village on May 3, 1917. They were expelled a few days later by German counter-attacks backed by artillery fire which poured 100,000 high explosive and 27,500 gas shells onto allied positions around Fresnoy in 36 hours. Wounded in the leg, Westropp crawled for seven hours through the mud of no man's land,

eluding enemy patrols to regain the safety of his own lines. In later years he always felt that the official history of the war had dealt hardly with the failure of British units, including his own, to hold Fresnoy under such fearful odds. The fact is that Arras was an offensive whose laborious (and ostentatious) preparations sacrificed all possibility of surprise and Ludendorff was amply prepared. As the German official account noted at the outset of the battle: "Mountains of shells were piled up in the ammunition dumps, the construction of defences and the organisation of the troops was complete. The enemy could come..."

Westropp was never a man to allow even such fearful setbacks to dampen his spirits. On periods out of the front line he knew how to let his hair down.

LEO HURWITZ

Leo Hurwitz, American documentary film maker, died in New York on January 18 aged 81. He was born in New York in 1909.

DURING the 1930s Leo Hurwitz joined in one of American cinema's greatest adventures - creating non-fiction films of fighting temperaments in the teeth of the great depression. His colleagues included the photographers Paul Strand and Ralph Steiner, the journalist Pare Lorentz and the editor Irving Lerner. Allied at first with the Workers' Film and Photo League in New York, Hurwitz broke away with Steiner and Lerner to form Nykino; later, he co-founded Frontier Films and Pioneer Films. But whatever the umbrella Hurwitz sheltered under, he pursued his career with a passionate belief in cinema's importance as a weapon of social change. Various working as

photographer, scriptwriter, editor and director, he collaborated on milestone films such as *The Plow That Broke the Plains* (1935) and *Native Land* (1942); down the years there was also much journalism and educational work. Hurwitz, born in Brooklyn to Russian parents, developed his social conscience at an early age. His father was a devoted follower of Tolstoy, and christened his son Leo Tolstoy Hurwitz in his honour; another child bore the name Peter Kropotkin Hurwitz (after the Russian anarchist). At Harvard, Hurwitz's left-wing views made him an outsider. Returning to New York, he soon found friends among the Workers' Film and Photo League, launched in 1930 under the discreet auspices of the Communist party.

Watching the great depression ravage ordinary lives, Hurwitz be-

came convinced that the Communist party had, in his words, "the best grasp on the situation." His first film assignment was the supervision of *Hunger 1932* which recorded the National Hunger March in Washington. Two years later, he directed *Scottsboro* and the bitterly ironic *Sweet Land of Liberty*, pursuing an editing style clearly influenced by Soviet practice. "If the work of the Workers' Film and Photo League was crude," Hurwitz later recalled, "it had energy derived from a real sense of purpose... The world had to be shown what its eyes were turned away from." Yet at the time, Hurwitz chafed under the restrictions placed on the artistic quality of the League's films. He moved away to form Nykino, whose first production, *Pie in the Sky* (1935), saw Elia Kazan's debut as a film director. Later, he joined a distinguished

phalanx of photographers - Paul Strand, Ralph Steiner, Paul Ivano and Dorothea Lange - on *The Plow That Broke the Plains*, Pare Lorentz's landmark film about the Dust Bowl. At Frontier Films, Hurwitz continued his association with Strand. On *Heart of Spain* (1937) the team structured the script and edited footage shot in the heart of the Spanish Civil War. In *Native Land* (1942) they collaborated as directors and writers on a stark indictment of America's social structure; Paul Robeson spoke the commentary. After assignments for the Office of War Information and other US government agencies, Hurwitz re-established his radical credentials with *Strange Victory* (1948), a provocative attack on racism. The House Committee on Un-American Activities predictably viewed Hurwitz with disfavour. He was

LILLIAN BOND

Lillian Bond, British-born film actress, died in Los Angeles on January 26 aged 81. She was born on January 18, 1910.

IN HER Hollywood career Lillian Bond was frequently cast as "the other woman" in films of the 1930s, memorably in the James Whale thriller, *The Old Dark House* of 1932. An eerie tale of the experiences of a family of travellers stranded in a house full of eccentricities, which remains a horror classic. The daughter of a London tea shop owner, she began her career at 14 in the pantomime *Dick Whittington*. Two years later she went to New York to appear in the Ziegfeld Follies and other revues. She made her Hollywood debut in the short film *Lost and Found* (1927) and afterwards appeared in more than 30 films. Among those were: *Hot Saturday* with Cary Grant, *China Seas* with Clark Gable, *The Westerner* with Gary Cooper, *The Bishop's Wife*, *The Jolson Story* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Her career ended with *The Pirates of Tripoli* (1955).

A colourful personality, she had won her first beauty contest in London as a teenager and in Hollywood continued to attract publicity in such competitions as the "perfect back contest" of the national progressive chiropractic association. She was married three times, firstly as a teenager in London; secondly to the New York stockbroker and big game hunter Sidney Smith; and thirdly to the novelist and film writer Michael Fessier who died in 1989.



Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy
SUSSEON COMMODORE: A.L. 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Keeping up the 'kinformation'

As the Royal Navy does its duty in the Gulf, a team at home keeps track of every one of its personnel

The naval control centre is quiet at the moment. It is three in the morning. By rights, anyone sensible should be in bed asleep, but there is a war on, and "E" watch inside the Royal Navy Casualty Co-ordination Centre (RNCCC) in Portsmouth is working through 24-hour watches until the battle is done. Because it is quiet, they are fretting a little. They have been trained to act, to move quickly and efficiently about their duties, not to sit and wait. And yet, like all other servicemen caught up in this conflict (and a good many besides), they know that if called to activity it will mean men and women are injured and possibly dying.

For the work of this centre, of the 50 or so men and women who continuously man the lines of glowing computer screens and communications equipment, the banks of telephones, headsets and plotting boards, diagrams and charts, is to keep precise track of every naval man and woman serving in the Gulf, follow them from ship to ship or ashore and, if the worst happens, be the first to know about it and the first to tell relatives and friends accurately what has happened. "Kin-forming", it is called in the abbreviated service-speak of the military: informing the next of kin or, in these less structured days, "designated friend or companion".

Through me must pass all or most of the vital information that goes out to the world about any naval casualty press information, responses to general callers on the nationally advertised naval helpline and, most importantly, information to concerned and worried relatives. Teams of "visitors" stand by around the country to respond to a call from the RNCCC.

I keep the television news on continually, for I am as likely to get a first hint of naval action from the press as from the operational commanders. But I also look up sharply when a signal is rushed a little too hastily into the room, a fax is thrust quickly down from the Ministry of Defence printer, or one of the telephones rings.

Everyone knows what it could mean. They have friends out there on the ships. But for the stroke of a pen they would be there, and their mate be back here. Still, for the moment it is a quiet night. We hope it remains that way.

rated, just gained a little more edge.

Each rank of quietly purring monitors is attended by uniformed figures, some locked on to the massive Naval Manpower database files recording details of a sailor's changed choice or changed address for NOK (Next of Kin), or updating the SoB (Souls on Board) list which must be transmitted daily from every ship and unit in the action zone. Others are standing by to help advise the bank of 20 headphoned telephonists who will deal with the calls from relatives or friends should something happen, calling from their own screens the latest details on any officer or rating. Still others are in direct terminal-to-terminal contact with the Gulf Command itself, and to the casualty clearing stations in between, monitoring RAF medical flight manifests for naval personnel flying back.

Phones ring, faxes pile up, classified signals are brought in by Wren messengers. As senior officer of the watch, a lieutenant commander of the naval reserve, I sit at a desk at the centre, controlling, feeding, deciding, directing the flow of information. I am not trained as a staff officer. My war role was supposed to be commanding a small warship, or filling up the war complement of a larger one. I am a seaman. But the call came and I was assigned my duty.

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CLIVE LANGMEAD

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Monday morning working on the tan at Bondi beach? Recent attempts to stamp out malingering by employees in Australia were abandoned as political suicide

Is there a remedy for 'sickies'?

Australia has abandoned efforts to do away with statutory sick leave, Liz Gill reports. But have we a better answer to an industrial malaise?

In Australia, the "sickie" is a national institution. An employee's right to a certain number of days of paid sickness leave every year is enshrined in law, and cherished to the point where entire lifestyles are built around it. The attitude to the sickie as *gratia* holiday starts at the top, in the boardroom. The rich throw their sickies on Wednesday arvo (afternoon) and go sailing. This is not a random thing: whole yacht races are organised around it. Other people go to the races or the beach. An attempt towards the end of last year to crack down on the practice in the face of Australia's deepening economic gloom was abandoned as potential political suicide.

In Britain, the sickie may not have the same status, but sickness absence still costs an estimated £4 billion a year in lost production. There have, however, been indications recently of a tougher attitude. Margaret Hodge, the leader of Islington council in north London, for instance, suggested a one-month trial during which staff would be telephoned on the first afternoon of their absence and the following morning. Such a practice, according to the management consultant Andrew Sargent, may prove highly effective. It shows that absence is not taken lightly.

Mr Sargent, an expert on absenteeism, recalls an employer who took a bunch of flowers round to the home of a sick member of staff. "He was fired for the gesture. A couple of weeks later he did the same for someone else and found the chap mowing his lawn. But nobody minded when he disciplined this worker because he had

established his bona fides with the first. You could see phoning or visiting in such circumstances as spying, or you could see it as an expression of caring."

Mr Sargent's experiences would interest Ms Hodge. "The telephone can be a tool of good management practice," she says. "It must be seen in a welfare context. Where people are not asking you what to know what is the matter?" Islington council set up an absence monitoring system just over a year ago, after a district auditor's report showed levels running at 9.2 per cent. The system makes section heads directly responsible for record keeping and spells out standards and disciplinary procedures, including loss of pay, referral to a medical board and, ultimately, dismissal.

Different departments may use slightly different measures but in the chief executive's office, for example, it would be unacceptable to have eight days self-certified or four periods of either self or doctor-certified illness within three months without further questions being asked. Since the scheme's inception, absence levels have dropped two percentage points. Ms Hodge takes very little time off, though she points out that a distinction should be made between elected representatives and paid officials. In fact, managers do set a good example — only about 5 per cent of them will be off sick on any working day. Blue-collar staff take off twice that amount, Mr Sargent

says, and management "hardly any at all. Basically the more boring the job, the worse the conditions, the less you feel you count, the less you bother to go in."

The reasons for sickness absence range from genuinely incapacitating

talk directly to his boss, he has to be a real pro to lie."

Even though some jobs will never be interesting, Mr Sargent says, the people who do them can still be motivated. "You can explain to individuals why they matter. You can build teams so that they feel needed. You can create interest in quality and customer service."

Iain Carruthers-Jones, a psychologist with the business consultancy RHR International, believes companies can help encourage staff loyalty by giving what he terms "positive strokes". He says: "The whole company ethos should suggest someone is valued, be they managing director or a lathe operator."

Mr Carruthers-Jones believes companies are increasingly attempting to tackle absenteeism in a positive way — partly because of costs and partly because of demographic changes. "Ten, even five, years ago we tended to work on the American principle of hire 'em, burn 'em out and spit 'em out, but we realise now we cannot afford to be so cavalier."

Amounts of sickness absence are often related to levels of stress in jobs, he says. "A lot of the favourite complaints, like aches and pains, are classically the sort of symptoms that might be prompted by a psychological or emotional difficulty, so you cannot simply be dismissive."

He disapproves of companies which attempt to set acceptable

levels of sickness absence by, for instance, stating in contracts the number of days that may be taken without certification. Mr Sargent agrees and is similarly uneasy about attendance bonuses. "What tends to happen is that people work out how much they can 'afford' to be ill."

Absence is traditionally more common on Mondays and Fridays, but according to Dr Andrew Melhuish, a GP and medical adviser to the Henley Management College, there is little medical explanation for this. "I think it is generally just a way of getting a three-day weekend."

Dr Melhuish believes the older generation is less ready to take time off. "I think they are more likely to grin and bear it and to battle on. They have lower expectations, anyway, about jobs being interesting."

His research among managers supports the idea that they are the group least likely to stay at home. But he warns against a determination to go into the office at all costs. "It might be good from the firm's point of view but it may be hazardous for individuals because they may ignore warning signs like chest pains. They think they are indispensable, but they can be a danger to themselves."

"I had one patient who told me he had such a bad back that it took him an hour and three-quarters to get downstairs and into his car. By the time he got to the first roundabout he was in such agony he had to go back home. I told him this was very sensible and he said 'Yes, after I had had a rest I was able to get into work by lunchtime.'"

'People tend to work out how much they can 'afford' to be ill'

illness to straightforward malingering, with a range of minor complaints in between. It is with this spectrum of excuses — headaches, stomach upsets, bad colds and so on — that the real problem lies, Mr Sargent says. "It is the drip, drip, drip of casual absence — although I think most of the hard cases have been weeded out by ten years of Thatcherism."

Mr Sargent's company, which has produced a video titled *Gone Today Here Tomorrow*, runs regular seminars on tackling the issue. The first step he recommends to employers is the keeping of accurate records. "That way you pick up a trend early. You also make your drill clear and practical. If a worker can phone the switchboard and leave a message he will take the easy option. If he has to

How Sting joined Prokofiev's wolf pack

Peter and the Wolf is a masterpiece, but the narrators have been its real stars

'They had come to Romania to distribute pencils and books'



A school trip to Romania has its preconceptions challenged.

TES
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When Sergei Prokofiev composed *Peter and the Wolf* in 1935, he drew together two normally incompatible sources of energy — small children and classical music.

Prokofiev, who was born 100 years ago in April, made no bones about what he was attempting. He was not a natural charmer, his monosyllabic responses apparently frightened the wit out of Natalia Satz, the director of the Central Children's Theatre, Moscow, who commissioned the work. But he made it clear his purpose was to get children to listen to the instruments, which is why he discarded the first script, written in rhyme by a Russian. Rhyme, he said, would distract the children too much. Entertainment, evidently, was a means to a serious end.

Despite all this, *Peter and the Wolf* — originally titled *How Peter Outwitted the Wolf* before Prokofiev realised that this gave the game away too early — has been an enduring success. It regularly features in concert halls, and has been made into ballets, puppet shows and a Disney film. A new record version, with the words performed by the rock star Sting, is one of scores to be produced since Koussevitzky recorded it with Richard Hale in 1939.

The wide choice of narrators over the years reflects changing fashions. The piece has survived poor narrations, poor translations and poor performances. It even survived being reduced to 12 minutes for Alvar Liddell to record it on a flimsy single to be wrapped round bottles of Ribena.

The work's central triumph is, of course, the music and the inspired manner with which Prokofiev brought his characters to life. Who cannot see the



Cry wolf: Hermione Gingold recorded *Peter and the Wolf* in 1976

fluttering of the bird on the flute, feel the menace of the wolf on the horns?

But however much Prokofiev saw the music as the essence of the work, there is no doubt that the real stars are the narrators. And what an extraordinary pack they make: newscasters, actors, film stars high and low, comedians, singers and even a conductor or two. Where else would Boris Karloff (1963), Christopher Lee (1969), Wilfred Pickles (1952), Angela Rippon (1977), Hermione Gingold (1976), Leonard Bernstein (1962) and Johnny Morris (1977) nestle cheek by jowl with Ralph Richardson (1959), David Bowie (1978), Zero Mostel (1964), Terry Wogan (1985), Lina Prokofiev, the composer's widow (1987), and Jacqueline du Pré (1980).

The list is bemusing, and seems to be endless: David Franklin (1961), Sean Connery (1966), Michael Flanders (1959), Richard Baker (1971), Oda Slobodskaya (1962), Paul Daneman (1969), Mia Farrow (1974), Andre Previn (1988) and Peter Ustinov (1960 and 1989) have all narrated *Peter*. Among them, there have been some particularly memo-



Prokofiev felt that entertainment had a serious end

rable characterisations. Top of the critical ranks is probably Sir John Gielgud (1989) epitomising the stiff-upper-lip style of delivery. Flanders is the best of the old Brits, combining clean English with a real feeling for narration over music, while Bowie looks androgynous on his

RCA front cover and his narration is a bit like that — not much bite. Angela Rippon must take pride of place among newscasters. The version was made at the height of her fame and mounted police had to control the crowds during a personal appearance at a record shop in



Cry wolf: Sting has made the latest version

York. Her recording sold 10,000 copies in two months. These days the accent is on international sales and one orchestral recording will feature behind many narrators.

Sting's narration, recorded in Berlin last year, was added to the Chamber Orchestra of Europe's music, directed by Claudio Abbado and recorded in Vienna in 1988 for Deutsche Grammophon (although Abbado was closely involved with the interpretation). Abbado is joined by Charles Aznavour in France, Jose Carreras in Spain, Barbara Sukova, the Fassbender actress in Germany, Roberto Benigni, the Tuscan actor in Italy, and another actor, Tamasaburo, in Japan.

With five children, Sting found market research for his performance fairly easy. He took a cross-section of existing recordings on his yacht and tested them on his children. "They burst out laughing when they heard one senior English actor say with emphasised vowel sounds, 'The cat is represented by the claymore'. It was obvious that wasn't the way to do it," he says. From the start his idea was to narrate with the intimacy of a bedtime story. The

cat's miaows had to be real and the grandfather had to sound like a grandfather.

The invitation to record for Deutsche Grammophon came from Isabella de Sabata, who knew of his varied talents. "Sting has recorded *L'histoire du soldat* with Vanessa Redgrave and the London Sinfonietta, and I also knew that in the mornings he plays unaccompanied Bach on his cello," she explains.

Sting responded readily to Abbado's suggestion. "Can you make the bird higher," asked the conductor, and Sting complied. "How about making the grandfather cough a bit, so that he sounds a little ill — and as if he had no teeth," Abbado proposed.

Sting adjusted his characterisation with ease. He pinched his nose to get the duck voice, whispered the cat's entry, as it stalks through the grass after the bird, and skipped a Yorkshire lilt into the grandfather.

The result, with some of the best playing on any existing *Peter and the Wolf* recording, is fresh and immediate and makes a strong bid to jump to the top of the recommendations.

One thing is certain: however successful Sting's recording is, it will not be the last. Yet another version, with Peter Barkworth, accompanied by Aquarius conducted by Nicholas Cleobury, on Collins Classics, is already recorded and will be out in time for Prokofiev's birthday, on April 23.

The work's capacity to charm successive generations demonstrates how much of a masterpiece it really is. And it is worth noting that, despite such an obvious blueprint for fame and royalties, it has never really been matched.

NICOLAS SOAMES

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No pro dough

IN THE twilight of its existence, Greater London Arts has decided to axe its entire budget to amateur music societies, in response to getting only a 2.5 per cent increase in its Arts Council grant. "This is the money that societies use to hire professional musicians for their concerts," said Russell Jones, director of the National Federation of Music Societies. "If this is repeated by other regional arts associations it would be disastrous. We have 1,900 member societies representing 120,000 enthusiastic people."

FFC's DIY

AFTER critical brickbats for casting his daughter Sofia in a prominent role in *The Godfather III*, an unrepentant Francis Ford Coppola is reportedly hatching a new project, *Girl Under Glass*, from his own script, co-starring himself. The director favours the leading male role of a married, glib college professor who falls in love with a prostitute, pays her by the minute, yet turns violent when his dosage is not reciprocated. This would be Coppola's first acting job. *The Godfather III* will open in London next month.



Coppola: screen debut?

Last chance ...

The out-of-London tour of Wallace Shawn's powerful monologue *The Few* plays its last shows tonight and tomorrow at the Crucible Studio, Sheffield (0742 769922). He first performed this before invited audiences in the homes of New York friends, giving a savage edge to the contrast between their privileged lives and the atrocities he recounts in the piece. In a theatre it still packs a hard punch. His final three performances in this country are at the Cottesloe (071-928 2252) on Friday and Saturday.

ROCK

Musical chairs and a vinyl analysis

Britain's biggest leisure industry, the record business, announces its annual awards at the end of this week against a more than usually troubled background. Sean O'Hagan reports

These are confusing times for the British pop music industry. Two years ago, the biggest selling single of the year was "Ride on Time" by the Italian act, Black Box: a slice of futuristic Euro-pop released in Britain by a tiny independent label called Deconstruction. "Ride on Time" was an Acid-House anthem overlooked by the major record company talent scouts until they were forced to watch it shoot to the top of the charts, selling around 800,000 copies in the process. The sound of Black Box — computerised rhythms, drum machines, synthetic vocals — is emblematic of dance-based pop: the sound of technology and transience. The sound of tomorrow.

The biggest selling single of 1990, however, was "Unchained Melody" by The Righteous Brothers: a slab of classic pop re-released after two decades by Verve, part of the multinational Polygram group. "Unchained Melody" rose to the top of the charts via the soundtrack of the film *Ghost*. The orchestral strings, aching melodies and melodramatic vocal are unchanged. The sound of yesterday.

These two records symbolise the current fragmentation of British pop, its uncertain future and its increasing dependence on the past. 1990 will be remembered as a bad year, the worst since 1979 for declining sales. Two trends dominated: the rise of the anonymous, one-off dance-pop hit, and the sheer volume of releases linked to television advertising campaigns or film soundtracks.

In the corridors of British pop power, some serious questions are being asked. How long will the demand for recycled old hits last? How much of a future does today's crop of technologically oriented dance acts have? And, most urgently, where is the new talent?

The financial backbone of the music business is the successful artist's back catalogue, a constantly recycled source of revenue needing a minimal promotional budget. "Artist longevity" is the record company buzzword.

"In any one year, five artists sell 80 per cent of our records," explains Polygram's chairman, Maurice Oberstein. "Our goal is to find artists that last forever." The ascendancy of the compact disc has made the back catalogue an even

more lucrative source of income, but there is little sign of the durable new acts that will be tomorrow's stars.

That is a particularly worrying dilemma for the men pictured right: the managing directors and chairmen of the big record companies. Next Sunday they will oversee the annual British Phonographic Industry awards ceremony, affectionately known as The Brits. For the benefit of a global television audience, bravado speeches, back-slapping and much mutual appreciation will be the order of the day, glossing over the vested interests and intense competition that are the hallmarks of Britain's biggest leisure industry.

"We try to work round the problem of vested interest for the industry's greater good," explains Paul Conroy, president of Chrysalis. Increasingly, the pop industry is being pushed into working for this "greater good" by external forces. "Pop is going through a period of intense change and uncertainty," explains Steve Redhead, editor of the trade magazine *Music Week*. "The business rhetoric is still geared towards artistic longevity but the actual evidence suggests something different. Plus, we're in the midst of a period of structural changes in the market: the rise of CD, the imminent rise of digital cassette and the imminent death of vinyl records."

Oberstein is more philosophical about contemporary pop's dilemma: "Right now, we're certainly having difficulty translating brilliant record-makers into live acts. We aren't building artist awareness, we're building dance music — records as opposed to performers. I have no difficulty with that. I take my money from wherever it comes."

Oberstein, along with Rob Dickins (WEA) and Paul Russell (Sony Entertainment UK) — a formidable major-label trio — has been accused of filling the charts with "safe, retro-pop" and an endless stream of his compilations, of perusing over today's dearth of talent with the recycled sounds of yesterday. And after last year, some major-label bosses are beginning to wonder if the critics have a point.

"We're going to have a few years



More togetherness from the men at the top of the record business in Britain (left to right): Rupert Perry (EMI), Paul Russell (Sony), Paul Conroy (Chrysalis), Maurice Oberstein (Polygram), Rob Dickins (WEA), Tony Powell (MCA) and Jon Webster (Virgin)

like 1990," is Chrysalis president Conroy's verdict. "There's a real shortage of good A & R people [talent scouts]. To compensate, we've concentrated on introducing young consumers to older, safer music like Eric Clapton or the Led Zeppelin CD box-set."

Dickins of WEA puts most of the blame on the fragmentation of the current pop scene. "Dance music has turned off a lot of people, just as it's kept a lot of people very happy. But the real reason The Righteous Brothers have two singles in the charts is because people are crying out for real songs. The fact is that new artists, more than ever, have to compete with the past through advertisements, television, movie soundtracks, whatever. If a 15-year-old discovers has to compete with Dylan. Maybe we're seeing the start of a new development: there will still be loads of hit records but not so many actual artists."

The uncertainty surrounding the future of pop artistry is matched only by the certainty surrounding the selling of future pop product. If the Walkman and the compact disc radically altered the way we consume popular music, the imminent arrival of the compact digital audio cassette will be the final nail in the coffin of the traditional black vinyl record.

British cassette sales currently sit around 80 million, compared with about 50 million CDs and 30 million albums. While the traditional seven-inch single is in drastic decline, the 12-inch format, providing almost exclusively for the dance market, continues to thrive. Cassette singles, although a relatively small part of the market, are growing at a rate of 6,000 per cent annually.

Currently Sony, which has taken over CBS, is perfecting a DAT (Digital Audio Tape), while Philips (part of Polygram) is working on a DCC (Digital Compact Cassette)

system, both of which will make the state-of-the-art hi-fi cassette the prime carrier of popular music for the future. "People get upset about the death of vinyl, but we'll see a digital audio tape by the end of 1991," claims Oberstein.

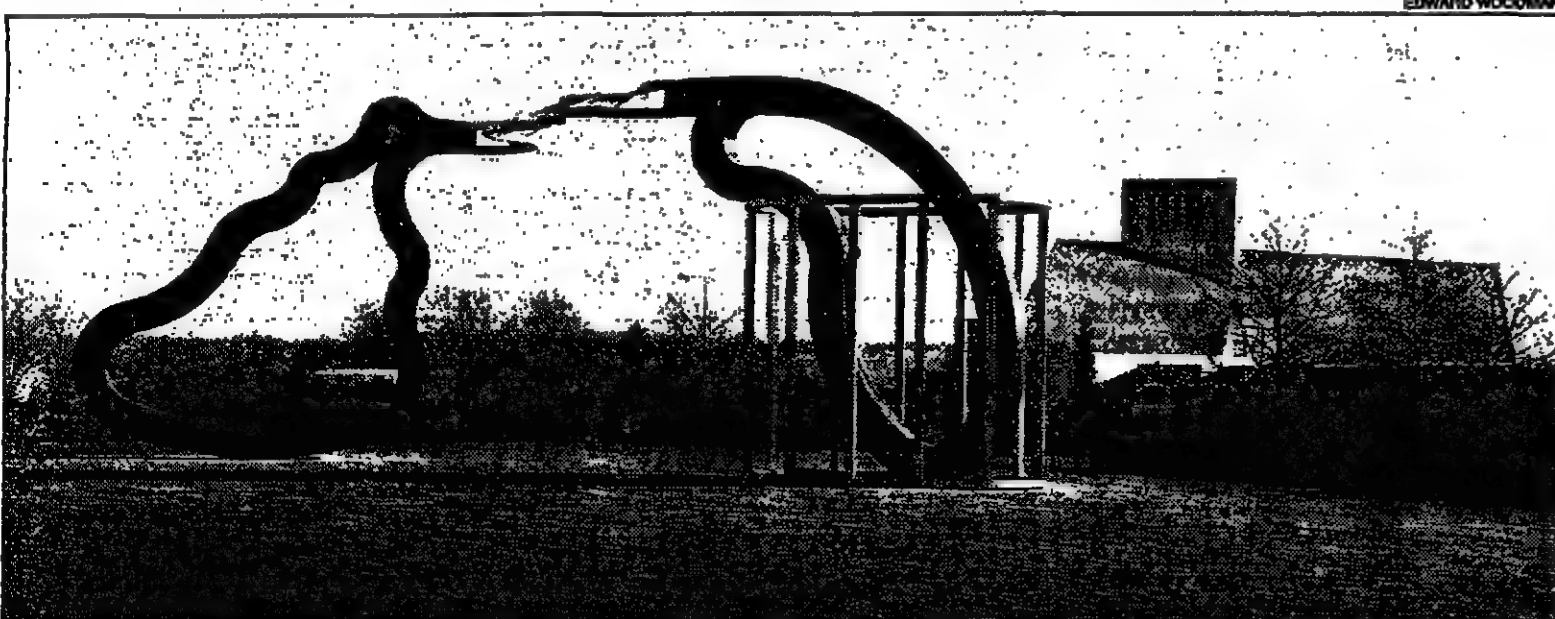
The record industry is praying that the marketing of the digital cassette will go more smoothly than the selling of the CD. Last year, the consumer magazine *Which?* accused "profit-seeking record companies" of "keeping the price of compact discs artificially high." *Which?* maintained that since CDs were introduced in 1983, retail prices have remained high (around £11), although the manufacturing cost has halved and the market has boomed. The BPI complained about the report to the Press Council, but in November the Press Council backed *Which?*.

Mentioning CD prices to any of the record industry's top management is not a good idea. Jon Webster, managing director of

Virgin Records UK, says: "Which? got it wrong. The manufacturing price has nothing to do with it. What is expensive is the digital recording process and the cost of launching a new act. We're in a fashion business. Ninety per cent of what we release loses money; that has to be recouped somehow."

As the CD row diminishes, the BPI must tackle an image problem in other areas. As Sony's Russell argues: "This is the most successful leisure industry this country has ever produced. We supply 50 per cent of the world's popular music and employ 60,000 people in the process. We are the first to be knocked if there's a scandal, and the first to be tapped when there's a war or famine. We're the only British industry that has any real stars: world-famous stars. That's enough for me."

● The winners of the 1991 British Phonographic Awards will be announced on Sunday, with highlights broadcast on BBC 1 on February 11.



Exploding with energy: "Let's Not Be Stupid", by Richard Deacon, about 15 metres long and 5 metres high, was officially installed last Friday

At a time when so many universities are besieged by incessant demands for financial cuts, the arrival of a hugely invigorating outdoor sculpture on the Warwick campus seems almost miraculous. In the chilly afternoon, last Friday, a crowd assembled for the official installation of a 45-foot-long tour de force in steel by one of Britain's finest young sculptors, Richard Deacon.

Since snow threatened, the ceremony was held in a room with an extensive view of the landscaped site where the sculpture stood hidden by darkness. Nydia Preen, who

Grand motto for life

Richard Cork, who attended the unveiling of sculptor Richard Deacon's first public commission, salutes its imaginative daring

with her husband Oliver presented the work to Warwick University, threw a switch which transformed the mound beyond into a blaze of light. The excitement was intensified by the flamboyance of the sculpture itself. Deacon, the winner of the Turner Prize in 1987, has produced another arresting image for this,

his first public commission. On the left, an upright form in mild steel undulates gently within a cage. But the sense of confinement is broken at the top, where the form bursts out of its container. In a development which gives the sculpture much of its explosive energy, a horizontal ladder of twisting stainless steel shoots like an electrical discharge to the other side of the sculpture. Here, the voltage seems to surge unchecked through the entire length of the second large form. It threatens to buckle under the impact of the tremor, but it also appears to be exhilarated by its freedom from the cage.

Standing underneath this dynamic structure, which gleamed with the reflection of the spotlights, I immediately felt caught up in the drama Deacon directs with such aplomb. Plenty of monumental works have been weighed down by their ponderous gigantism. Far from succumbing to sloth, however, Deacon has been galvanised by the chance to manipulate form on the grand scale.

There is a swashbuckling confidence about the way he engineers the airborne transition from one side over to the other. He treats the mound as an arena, where a titanic encounter is enacted with immense theatrical flair.

The instinctive feeling for spectacle is not marred by staginess or rhetorical overkill. The contrast between the two forms remains lean and athletic, purged of all superfluity. It triggers stimulating questions, too.

At first, the sculpture seems to set up a straightforward duality between imprisonment and liberty. An escapee is apparently being celebrated, and the gymnastic feat of the connecting ladder crackles with a sense of vitality released from its confines. Deacon may have been thinking about a student's natural desire to leap out of the straitjacket imposed by institutional authority.

The sculpture is, however, too ambiguous to be saddled with such a narrow meaning. Besides, the title Deacon has given it sounds a note of warning: "Let's Not Be Stupid". While this might apply to imprisonment, it could refer to the dangers of total freedom.

The unconfined side of the sculpture is, after all, still connected as if by an umbilical cord to the other half. The tension between them is palpable, and they seem to be engaged in a tug of war. Even as the liberated side rejoices in unshackled space, it still remains dependent on its link with the caged form. They are evenly matched, and the sculpture implies that both sides would suffer if the bridge joining them were severed.

Deacon himself refused to be pinned down on the sculpture's meaning. When I asked why he had chosen that title, he smiled and said: "Well, it's a motto for life, really, isn't it?" But he did make clear how much he had responded to the site. While relishing its spaciousness, he said that the minimalism of the nearby Rookes Building had given him a strong contrast.

Eugene Rosenberg, who designed it in the late 1960s and died last year, would surely have approved of "Let's Not Be Stupid". A passionate collector, generous enough to lend many paintings to Warwick, he always tried to foster a mutually nourishing alliance between art and architecture.

Now, with the additional assistance of the Henry Moore Foundation, Deacon's sculpture vindicates Rosenberg's faith. An outright masterpiece, it is a marvellous achievement, and deserves to be hailed as one of the most outstanding sculptures ever to animate a public space in this country.

THEATRE

Playwrights have last word

Most actors enter stage left or right, speak their lines as convincingly as possible, then exit. In a Theatre de Complicité production, anything can happen. Actors pop out of cupboards, leap into mid-air and bound around using minimum props and maximum chaos. Their bodies bend like Plasticine, conjuring up characters that might have leapt out of a Goya cartoon.

Until recently, this British-based company shied away from play-text: its use of language was pared down to grunts and jabber. Now it tackles a new challenge. Friedrich Schlegel's *The Visit*, Complicité's first large text-based production, is coming to the National Theatre after a 1989 run at the Almeida and an international tour. The director, Annabel Arden, believes her players are as capable of tackling text as any: "I don't believe in labels. If the characterisation comes from observing life, and the comedy's immediate, then that's what counts."

Complicité's recent production, *Help! I'm Alive*, which took the actors to the limits of physical endurance, did have a plot of sorts: cuckolded Italian peasant rescuing wife from hoodlum's clutches. But the text was a pretext for farce. "Our work is derived mainly from *commedia dell'arte*," says Marcello Magri, the lead in that show.

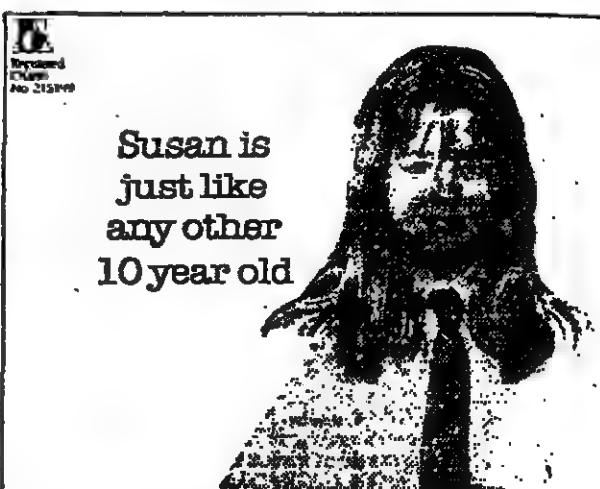
Parrying the idea that they cannot realise any degree of naturalism, the company members argue that they are after truth, not naturalism. As with Brecht, the power lies in the illusion of theatre. The narrator in *Help! I'm Alive* periodically steps out of the

Joseph Williams meets the Théâtre de Complicité, now using full texts

action like a surreal Tommy Cooper, calling to the audience: "Theatre? Marvellous: different every night!"

One can imagine this company performing *Molière* or *Dario Fo*, but there are not many playwrights — O'Neill, Miller, Pinter — who are completely out of their range. Simon McBurney, the company's co-founder, rolls his eyes like a *Complément* creation at the suggestion. "Absolutely not. Tragedy and comedy are intertwined. When McKellen played *Macbeth*, he was so frightening that I actually laughed: laughed with fear."

● The Visit runs from Thursday at the Lyttelton, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252)



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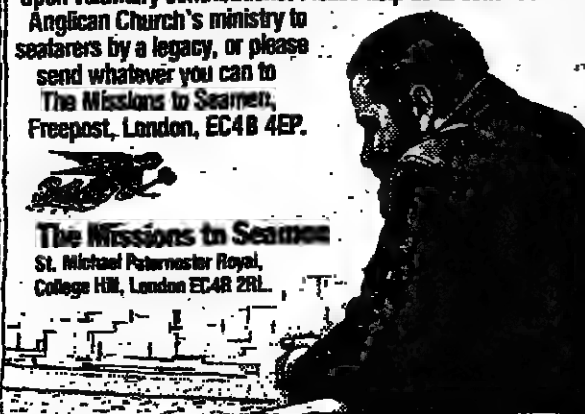
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ate, Notting Hill

THEATRE
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n & Chickens,
Islington

ROCK
Killing Joke
Astoria

ing of robes hardcore noise, suffered perhaps as some sort of atonement for their earlier dalliance with the Mammun of daytime radio.

Returning at last to active performing duty, they cooked up a stage show that distilled this recaptured disaffection with a vengeance. They shambled on to a stage, carrying a tarpaulin with the words "The Gulf War" and others on the subject of the Gulf war. A slow, shuffling drunk led into "Inside the Berrite Mound" and Geordie's glutinous, overcranked guitar tone combined with Paul Raven's unapologetic bass to produce a very noisy sort of noisy (George Orwell) atmosphere which could have been cut with a knife.

"Money is not our God" broke



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NEW RELEASES

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Φ) on release across the country.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U) Gerard Depardieu masterful as the ebullient, long-nosed Cyrano, director Jean-Paul Rappeneau transfigures Rostand's play into magnificence, swashbuckling spectacle. **Check Cinema** (071-381 5742) **Cinema** (071-727 4043) **Lumière** (071-535 0061) **Renoir** (071-837 5402)

THE FOOL (U) Sufocating, static tale of financial industry in Victorian England from the *Little Dombey* genre. With Derek Jacobi presiding. **Check Cinema** (071-381 5742) **Cinema** (071-727 4043) **Wrest End** (071-430 4805)

CURRENT

[illegible]**THEATRE GUIDE**

**Jeremy Kingston's assessment of
current theatre in London**

☒ House full, returns only
☒ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

TODAY'S EVENTS

[illegible]

Edwards, More Winningham
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (071 636)

NARROW MARGIN (TS) Cal-wind mouse
on a hunt, with director Arthur J. Guro
Hodkinson, murder witness Anne Archer
and the Miss Dynamite remake of a Paul J. Smith
classic. Director, Michael Winner. (07-1-435
6148)

THE NASTY GIRL (PG) Provocative
teeny assault on conformity in a new past
with Lena Dunham as the girl unbecoming her
phone-kissed ex-boy, Weston
Chenoweth. (07-1-352 5084 Metro
07-1-437 0757) Screen on the Net, (07-1-435
3366)

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (TS)
Quisic Trissetton comedy with a few tears
from Cume Fisher's novel. Matt Stroup as
the drug-abused addict, Shirley Kuciner as
her mother. Director, Mike Nichols. (07-1-435
6111)

Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington
(071-602 6544/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722

[illegible]

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Ghoulish and wild, bold and bizarre (sometimes featuring rock music)

RUSS ABBOT'S MADHOUSE:
Affordable Russ poorly served by state mail (not in

er Walzase by Verisuzation choreographer
Kevin Winkler. This is followed, on

[illegible]

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Monty Finniston, the industrialist and former chairman of British Steel, died at the weekend. He was 78. He had been admitted to the Wellington hospital in London last week after suffering a heart attack.

Moves to abolish the mandatory penalty are also backed by the Penal Affairs Consortium, a pressure group representing 18 organisations including the Prison Governors' Association, Prison Officers' Association and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro). In a report published today, Nacro says Britain has around 3,500 life-sentence prisoners, far more than any other western European country. The main reason for this, it says, is the fixed penalty for murder.



The Iraqi authorities, keen to capitalise on the effect that coverage of the attacks will have

"At the beginning many Iraqis believed that the West was trying to avoid killing the Iraqi people," said one resident of Baghdad. "They have to be careful not to change that perception."

A separate account, telephoned over to London yesterday, told of two allied cruise missile attacks in the past three days. One was on Yarmuk Sports Club, near Mishrif in the south, thought to be used as a detention and torture centre by the Iraqis. The other was on Shamir school off the first ring road to the west of the city, used by the Iraqis as a command centre.

**The solution of
Saturday's Prize
Puzzle No 18.519 will
appear next Saturday.
The 5 winners will
receive a Duofold
fountain pen supplied
by Parker**

which will be published on Thursday, February 21.

Weather: Yesterday: Temp: max 5 am to 5 pm, 3C (37F); min 5 pm to 8 am, -7C (19F). Rain: 24 hr to 8 am, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 5 pm, 0.8 hr.

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هكذا من الأضطرار

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- LAW 23
- FOCUS: HOUSING STANDARDS 24,25
- EDUCATION 26,27
- SPORT 29-34

BUSINESS

Business Editor
John Bell

MONDAY FEBRUARY 4 1991

President budgets for \$300bn deficit

PRESIDENT George Bush will today send Congress a \$1,400 billion budget proposal for fiscal 1992, with a federal deficit set close to \$300 billion, reflecting the cost of the Gulf war and the recession, administration and Congress sources said.

But the proposal is not expected to contain any initiatives to pull the economy out of recession. Instead, it will focus on long-term economic growth.

The budget is based on the assumption that the recession will end by mid-year. A return to slight growth is forecast, producing a real 0.9 per cent growth in gross national product for the whole of 1991.

Although the White House predicts a \$318 billion budget deficit, congressional analysts expect it to be about \$298 billion. This compares with last year's deficit of \$220 billion.

The *New York Times* said Mr Bush will ask Congress to cut another \$23 billion from the Medicare scheme for the elderly and disabled over the next five years, in addition to large cuts already planned.

Brokers face fraud charge

Two stockbrokers appeared before Guildhall magistrates in London on Saturday charged with fraud totalling about £2.5 million.

Patrick Mahon, aged 49, chairman of TC Coombs and Company, the stockbroking firm, and Andrew Kent, aged 42, an employee of the firm, were charged with conspiracy to defraud the Securities Association of £255.18 million (£2.5 million).

Mr Mahon, of Chigwell, Essex, and Mr Kent, of Chelsea, were granted conditional bail with sureties of £50,000 each. They were ordered to surrender their passports and not to leave the UK. They will appear before magistrates again on May 8. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

UK oil record forecast

Britain's oil and gas output looks set to reach a new peak in the mid-Nineties, with welcome implications for the economy as a whole, John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said at the weekend.

He said a record 224 exploration and appraisal wells were sunk in the British sector of the North Sea last year, while the Offshore Operators' Association suggested up to 300 new fields could be developed over 25 years. This meant Britain could remain a leading petroleum producer until the middle of the next century.

Mr Wakeham's view contrasts with the picture provided by official output data, which show that North Sea production has not regained ground lost in the late Eighties. He said there had been an unexpectedly high number of new discoveries.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9768 (+0.0175)
W German mark 2.9005 (-0.0175)
Exchange index 94.4 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1694.0 (+49.0)
FT-SE 100 2165.7 (+62.7)
New York Dow Jones 2730.69 (+71.28)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23156.70 (-416.55)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.59	2.44
Austria Sch	21.95	20.15
Belgium Fr	62.75	58.75
Canada Cdn	2.365	2.245
Denmark Kr	11.75	11.05
Finland Mk	1.14	1.05
France Fr	10.32	9.87
Germany Dm	3.045	2.845
Greece Dr	331	311
Hong Kong \$	15.75	14.95
Ireland Pt	1.145	1.075
Italy Lit	229	219
Japan Yen	273.50	257.50
Netherlands Gld	3.425	3.215
Norway Kr	11.91	11.21
Portugal Esc	200	182
Spain Ptas	160	157
South Africa Rd	5.35	4.95
Sweden Kr	11.39	10.71
Switzerland Fr	2.69	2.48
Turkey Lira	2000	1850
USA \$	2.05	1.93
Yugoslavia Dnr	32.00	28.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.8 (December)

Big three German car makers back Continental's stand

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY'S three largest car makers are believed to have built up stakes in Continental, the German tyre company, in support of the management which is fighting a merger proposal from Pirelli, its Italian rival.

Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen and BMW are understood to own stakes of between 1 and 5 per cent, and together represent just under 10 per cent of Continental's share capital. The companies would not comment.

Last September Pirelli proposed a

merger between the two companies under which Continental would buy Pirelli Tyre Holdings, the Amsterdam-listed tyre firm, for between DM1.85 billion and DM2.25 billion, while Pirelli, the parent company, would end up with a 51 per cent majority in the merged Continental/Pirelli Tyre company. The proposal has been rejected by Continental's management and supervisory boards.

Now both companies are seeking out shareholders who will back their arguments. Investor support is so far divided on national lines. German shareholders, including Deutsche Bank and Allianz, the insurance company, are understood to

support Continental, while Mediobanca, the Milan merchant bank, Fiat, and other Italian investors speaking for more than 23 per cent, support Pirelli. Alberto Vicari, a private investor with 5 per cent of Continental, also supports Pirelli. An extraordinary shareholders' meeting, which is to decide on the future course of the company, has been called for March 13 at his insistence.

Pirelli will this week write to Continental shareholders putting its case for a merger. The Italian company can count on support in respect of 23 per cent of Continental's capital. Continental's known support is about 20 per cent, including the car

companies. The decisive factor will therefore be the attitude of the remaining investors, including numerous German and Swiss institutions and, to a smaller degree, British investors. German companies are generally unaware of their shareholders, since the large majority of shares are bearer certificates. It is up to shareholders to make themselves known to the company if they so wish.

At the egn, shareholders will decide whether to drop the present 5 per cent voting restriction, which protects Continental and many other German companies from hostile takeover bids. If shareholders agree to abolition of the restriction, the way

will be paved towards a genuinely hostile bid by Pirelli. If they do not, Continental will remain independent.

Two hundred workers' representatives drawn from Continental's factories throughout the country staged a demonstration in Hanover on Friday to pledge their support for the Continental management.

Horst Urban, the company's chief executive, had previously promised not to make any redundancies if the company remained independent. This is despite the serious state of the world tyre industry, which is suffering from severe recession worldwide.

Germany and US play down rate concerns

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

THERE is very little danger of the recession in America and Britain spreading to the rest of the world economy, and the Gulf war will have a negligible economic impact in the long term.

These were the main conclusions of a generally optimistic meeting of economic and political leaders held at Davos over the weekend.

The private meeting, which was attended by Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, and Wayne A. Galt, of the Federal Reserve Board, also agreed that there was no conflict between the divergent interest rate policies announced last week in Germany and America. Accord-

ing to Raymond Barre, the former French prime minister who was rapporteur of the meeting, there was no discussion of the effects these monetary policies would have on Britain and other members of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

M Barre said that European leaders generally understood that the Bundesbank's decision to raise interest rates had reflected considerations important not only for Germany but also for the whole of Europe, and added that there was no prospect of it shaking the structure of the ERM.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Germany's foreign minister, said the interest rate move was designed to signal that Germany had reached a "thresh-



Open for business: Allan Griffiths overseeing the resumption of trading at Lewis's Manchester store on Saturday

Lewis's reopens to a surge in trade

By PHILIP PANGALOS

LEWIS'S, the Manchester-based department store group that went into receivership last week with debts likely to exceed £50 million, has resumed trading with a surge of activity.

On Saturday, the first day's trading since last Thursday's receivership and subsequent closure of the group on Friday, the group managed to achieve record sales for February, traditionally a quiet month for retailing groups, and produced one of the best day's returns outside the busy Christmas period.

There was a steady stream of shoppers at the Lewis's store in Liverpool, many taking advantage of the hundreds of special offers available before National Westminster Bank's decision to withdraw financial facilities for the chain.

One assistant, who refused to be named, said: "We have agreed to a 7.5 per cent pay cut because we are anxious to do anything to save Lewis's. Our livelihoods depend on the company staying afloat. I just hope something can be done to save our jobs and keep the store open."

Allan Griffiths, one of the joint receivers from Grant Thornton's Manchester office, described Saturday's trading as "tremendous". He said: "We had record sales for February."

Estimated sales at the 11 department stores are believed to have topped £1 million, compared with about £800,000 the previous week.

Mr Griffiths said that the group benefited from "tremendous support from staff and customers". He said that some people were reluctant to buy big ticket items, such as



future. He said that the receivers, who intended to sell the chain as a going concern, had been approached by a number of interested parties.

There have already been approaches from at least 20 enquirers, although some were only interested in parts of the business.

There has been speculation that the John Lewis Partnership, which has no connection with the Lewis's, might buy the group's sites in Glasgow and Thurrock, Essex, areas where it is not represented.

Lewis's main creditor is the NatWest, which is understood to be owed substantially more than £13.5 million and which withdrew its support after the company exceeded its cash limit.

TWA to negotiate on rescheduling interest payments

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

TRANS World Airlines, the troubled American carrier, will this week begin talks to reschedule interest payments on its corporate bonds after failing to meet a \$75.5 million payment on Friday.

The airline said it went into default to conserve cash in the face of a severe drop in bookings and high fuel costs. Moody's Investors Service, the credit rating agency, immediately downgraded the bonds to junk levels.

Carl Icahn, TWA owner, chairman and chief executive, said the airline had \$200 million in cash at the end of last month. That sum includes \$110 million from the sale of its Chicago-London route to American Airlines, which may not go through if the British aviation authorities fail to give their approval.

The sale forms part of a wider agenda involving other routes sales into London by TWA to American and the sale of five key services into Heathrow by Pan Am to United Airlines. Without a quick decision, TWA claims it may have to file for bankruptcy protection against creditors, and Pan Am, which has already filed, faces liquidation.

On approval, American would pay TWA \$455 million for its Heathrow access, and

United Airlines would pay Pan Am \$290 million for Heathrow assets and five routes into London. But Britain is unwilling to grant a change of ownership, and with it access by America's two largest and financially strongest carriers into Heathrow, without big concessions from America for much greater access to American skies for British Airways.

Talks between Britain and America broke up last week when American negotiators said they had no mandate to discuss relaxation of American rules. American observers said the matter looks poised to escalate into an international diplomatic dispute.



Icahn: missed payment

Regarding the apparent breakdown of coordination between German and American monetary decisions, Jacob Frankel, economic director of the International Monetary Fund, said: "Policy coordination does not mean the same policy actions by different actors; policies can be coordinated either in the same direction or in opposite directions, depending on what the situation requires."

M Barre said that according to the analysis presented by Mr Angell, a relaxation of American monetary policy was necessary because the country was clearly in recession. This, however, was expected to be short and shallow. The threat of a "credit crunch" had been greatly exaggerated, he added, because the Fed was determined to provide enough liquidity to revive economic growth.

The recession in Britain had different causes from the one in America, M Barre said, and the meeting apparently expressed no views about Britain's immediate prospects.

The outlook for continental Europe and Japan appeared to be "very encouraging" and this was the reason why a worldwide recession was unlikely, said M Barre.

The Gulf war was "very important and worrying" from a political standpoint, he added, but from an economic point of view it was not a major factor.

A strong rise in the price of oil could have had serious repercussions on the world economy. But he said: "Nobody now thinks that oil prices could reach intolerable levels unless there was destruction of oil production capacity."

Building a picture of gloom

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

RECESSION in the already hard-hit construction industry is still deepening, with little hope of improvement.

The gloomy picture painted by the latest state-of-trade survey published today by the Building Employers' Confederation follows equally bleak reports on manufacturing and service industries over the last few weeks, which all suggested worsening output and accelerated job losses.

Taken together, and coupled with growing job cuts from leading companies, they provide an almost unmitigated pessimistic account of the state of British business.

The quarterly survey of 600 sample companies in the confederation, whose members carry out more than three-quarters of all private building work, indicates a sharp fall in output. This is likely to worsen across the construction industry, one of the first sectors to feel the impact of the economic downturn.

Roughly 66 per cent of all construction companies expect even less work over the next 12 months than in the past year,

the survey shows. When the 12 per cent who do expect more work are set against this, the resulting balance of minus 54 per cent is down from that in the third quarter of 1990, when there was a negative balance of 48 per cent.

Construction output fell sharply over the quarter, with the proportion of companies reporting declining output increasing markedly from 38 per cent in the third quarter of last year to 53 per cent in the final three months.

Regional results show that the recession has filtered down to areas that had previously been holding up, such as Scotland, the North, Yorkshire and Wales, while continuing to fall in London and the South. Only a fifth of building companies are working at or close to full capacity.

The survey shows what it calls "clear signs of a return of confidence and recovery" in the private house-building sector after last October's cut in interest rates. But David Woods, confederation chairman, said yesterday these signs had evaporated with war in the Gulf.

He said: "The results of this enquiry show even more clearly that the construction industry is in for a rough ride in 1991. I see no reason to change our forecast on job losses of well over 100,000 during the course of the current recession." Building firms would go to the wall in increasing numbers, not just new, smaller firms, but also larger, established companies.

Up to 59 per cent of building companies expect employment to fall in the next quarter, though some results in the survey suggest the rate of decline in tender prices is now slowing significantly. While the survey also shows some improvement in the decreasing number of new enquiries for work, this does not necessarily indicate an upturn since it may merely mark companies widening their tender net.

Confederation leaders said the industry needed a cut in interest rates as soon as possible, although they gave warning that even a 1 or 2 percentage point cut would be most unlikely to prevent a fall in overall output this year.

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Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

[illegible]

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Stock out- standing to Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	1 yr. only	5 yr. only
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[illegible][illegible]

8,152,000	Bay	102	+49	41.50	8.7
2,652,000	Barbados W	992	+25	20.0	3.0
TOBACCO					
5,152,000	W	102	+49	41.50	8.7
2,652,000	Barbados W	992	+25	20.0	3.0
TRANSPORT					

[illegible]

WATER					
157.5m	Argentan Water	251	0-5	20.4	7.0
163.0m	Northampton	251	0-5	21.4	7.3
1,024.0m	North West	247	0-1	21.0	7.1
569.0m	South West	278	0-13	19.9	7.1
1,024.0m	South West	278	0-13	20.0	7.2
276.5m	South West	278	0-13	20.0	7.2
1,183.4m	Torquay Water	265	0-3	21.4	7.5
162.0m	Weymouth Water	215	0-10	22.4	7.4
322.5m	Weymouth Water	200	0-10	22.4	7.4
580.5m	Yarmouth Water	303	0-3	22.6	8.0
—	Packages Unit	2268	0-336

a Ex dividend b Ex all c Forecast dividend d Interest payment e Price at suspension f Dividend in year of suspension g Interest payment h Pre-merger figure i Forecast earnings j Ex. Dividend

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interest payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend a yield exclude h special payment i Pre-merger figure Forecast earnings ● Ex other ● Ex other

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Cellnet's growth the key to raised profits at Securicor

A HEALTHY advance in full-year profits is expected tomorrow from Securicor, the security-to-communications group where Roger Wiggs is chief executive, and its quoted subsidiary, the 51 per cent owned Securicor Services.

Profits will register a strong increase on the back of progress at Cellnet, the cellular mobile telephone network, which accounts for more than half the group's profits.

December's figures, the latest available, showed that Cellnet added 9,500 subscribers. News is awaited on whether subscription growth has been maintained.

The parcels and security businesses are expected to be suffering from recession.

Chris McFadden at Smith New Court expects Securicor to turn in final pre-tax profits of £62 million, against £38.2 million last time, giving earnings of 25.2p (16.3p). Full-year profits from Securicor Services are expected to rise to £47.9 million (£28.2 million), giving earnings of 24.2p (15.7p).

TODAY

John Menzies, the newspaper wholesaler and retailing chain, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits of £5.9 million, against £3.1 million, according to Keith Wills at Goldman Sachs. However, the latter figure is flattered by the exclusion of last time's £3.2 million extraordinary provision for Early Learning Centres in America. Market forecasts range from £5.3 million to £6.2 million.

The statement on the group's second-half trading performance, including the important Christmas period, will be of greater interest to the market.

The interest change will take its toll on profits, and charges will reflect the refinancing of



Making progress: Roger Wiggs, Securicor chief executive

American debt into sterling. The change is expected to be about £2.1 million (£1.6 million) in the first half, rising to £4 million (£2.3 million) for the year.

The group's British retailing businesses are expected to show a mixed performance. The main chain will be down, and, after the recent figures from WH Smith, it appears that the wholesaling recovery has hit a plateau.

In contrast to the American Early Learning Centres, which the group hopes to sell off, the British centres are expected to be the one "bright spot".

Interim: Black (Peter), Menzies (John).
Final: Conroy Petroleum & Natural Resources, Fleming Cleverhouse, Iny, Inyale Petroleum Holdings.
Sectoral statistics: Credit business (December), retail sales (December - final), UK official reserves (January), advanced energy statistics (December).

TOMORROW

Final pre-tax profits at Securicor Group, the security to industrial cleaning and services group, are expected to fall

travel and tourism (November), housing starts and completions (December).

THURSDAY

A downturn in demand at Unitech, the electronic components group, is expected to result in interim pre-tax profits of £10 million, against £12.3 million last time, according to Patrick Wellington at County NatWest WoodMac. Market forecasts range from £10 million to £13 million.

Union Discount, the discount house and financial services group, is expected to report net profits of £12 million for the full year, against £10.5 million last time, according to Philip Gibbs at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

The company is believed to have benefited from the cut in the base rate announced when Britain joined the ERM.

Interim: Prymado, Trans-Metall, Coal Corp, Unitech.
Final: Children's Medical Charity, Inv Tst, Ericsson (LM), Porval, Season Hilda, Union Discount (London).

FRIDAY

Interim: Ebbot, First Spanish Inv, Fleet: HummerPrint, Sandell Group, Throgmorton Tst.

PHILIP PANGALOS

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Ban on R symbol can hinder trade

Pall Corporation v P J Delhaussens & Company Case C-238/89

Before G. F. Mancini, acting as President and Judges: T. F. O'Higgins, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, M. Diez de Velasco, Sir Gordon Slynn, C. N. Kakouris, F. A. Schockweiler, F. Grévisse, M. Zuleeg and P. J. G. Kapteyn

Advocate General G. Tesauro (Opinion October 9, 1990) [Judgment December 13]

A national rule which had the effect of prohibiting the use of the letter R in a circle in relation to a trademark which had been registered in another member state was capable of hindering intra-Community trade and could not be justified as being necessary in order to satisfy any mandatory requirements.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it by the Landgericht [Regional Court], Munich, for a preliminary ruling pursuant to article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

The defendant, distributed blood filters in the Federal Republic of Germany which it had imported from Italy. The Italian manufacturer applied to the Italian authorities and to their packaging the trademark "Miroport" followed by the letter R in a circle.

Pall brought proceedings against Delhaussens in order to prevent it using the R symbol after the "Miroport" trademark in the Federal Republic of Germany on the ground that that trademark had not been registered in Germany. In Pall's opinion the use of the R symbol in those circumstances constituted misleading publicity

prohibited by article 3 of the German law on unfair competition (Gesetz gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb) which prohibited "misleading indications as to... the origin... of goods (offered for sale)... or of their manner".

The Landgericht took the view that Pall's argument was correct under German law. However it stayed the proceedings and submitted two questions to the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of that provision with article 30 of the EEC Treaty.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice ruled as follows: The use of the R symbol next to a trademark in order to indicate that it was a registered trademark and that, consequently, it enjoyed legal protection, was a practice which originated in the United States. That practice was widely followed in several Community member states.

It appeared from the file that German trademark legislation did not contain rules relating to the compatibility of a national provision on unfair competition with Community rules on the free movement of goods was to be examined in the light of article 30 alone.

A prohibition such as the one in question in the present case was of such a nature as to hinder intra-Community trade because it might require the holder of a trademark registered in one member state to organize the presentation of its products in a different manner according to

the intended place of distribution and to organize compartmentalised distribution networks so as to ensure that products bearing the R symbol were not distributed in the territory of states which maintained such a prohibition.

Such a prohibition was indistinctly applicable to national and to imported products. It sought to avoid the risk of error with respect to the place where the trademark was registered and protected, and the question whether the product was of national or foreign origin was irrelevant in that respect.

It was therefore necessary to examine whether such a prohibition might be justified on the basis of mandatory requirements.

The argument that the prohibition was justified because the use of the R symbol, indicating that a trademark was registered, might mislead consumers if it had not been registered in the country where the goods were being distributed, could not be accepted.

On the one hand, it had not been established that, in practice, the R symbol was generally used and understood as indicating that the trademark had been registered in the country where the product was being distributed.

On the other hand even supposing that consumers, or some of them, might be misled on that point, such a risk could not justify such a substantial impediment to the free movement of goods, because consumers were more interested in the characteristics of the product than in the place where the trademark had been registered.

It had also been argued that the use of the R symbol in a state in which the trademark had not been registered was to be regarded as an act of unfair competition in respect of other competitors and that, if the registering of a trademark in any member state of the Community was sufficient to justify the use of the symbol, manufacturers might choose to register their trademarks in states with the least strict requirements.

That argument could not be accepted. On the one hand, alert traders having an interest in establishing whether the trademark had been registered or not were in a position to check the legal status of the trademark in question in the public register.

On the other hand a person who registered a trademark in a given member state sought essentially to obtain the benefit of legal protection in that state. The R symbol, like other symbols indicating that the trademark was registered, was of a subsidiary or complementary nature in relation to that legal protection which was the purpose of registration.

On those grounds the European Court ruled: Article 30 of the EEC Treaty was to be interpreted as prohibiting the application of a national rule on unfair competition which enabled a trader to seek, in the territory of a member state, the prohibition of the distribution of a product bearing the letter R, surrounded by a circle next to a trademark, where that mark had been registered in another member state, but not in the state in which the prohibition was sought.



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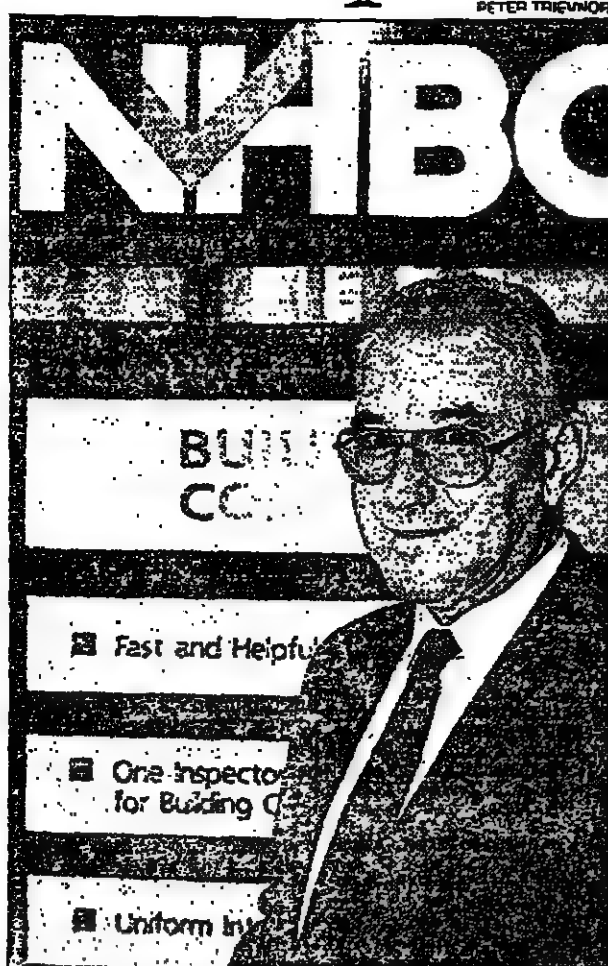


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Competition threatens homes warranties



Chief executive Basil Bean: "The cowboy is not dead"

A report sitting on the desk of Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, is casting a shadow over the future of the National House Building Council (NHBC). For, serious as the current depression in the construction industry is, an enquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) could, the council believes, do more to destroy its main achievement of the past 35 years.

At risk is the ten-year guarantee that every builder and developer registered with the NHBC gives on a new home. The issue is over the council's rule 12 which insists that registered builders guarantee all their homes.

Last year the MMC investigated whether the rule was anti-competitive after Mutual Municipal Insurance indicated that it would offer an alternative warranty. That report has now been submitted to Mr Lilley and publication is expected soon.

John Spalding, the council chairman, says in his annual report: "The enquiry has absorbed a great deal of senior staff and consultants' time and effort. Some of the new developments in our corporate plan have been put back, due to the high level of uncertainty caused by the enquiry and the lack of management time resulting from the enquiry."

The council feels that if developers can pick and choose which buildings to register under the ten-year guarantee scheme, they will

Builders could abandon their guarantees and buyers lose protection, Britain's housing standards council claims. Rodney Hobson reports

choose to guarantee only the best houses. Basil Bean, the chief executive of the NHBC, says: "The consumer may have no protection when he thought he was covered. If some houses on a site were registered and not others, it would add to the costs and we would not see the builder's total production. It would destroy the confidence the consumer now enjoys."

The NHBC was formed in 1936 as the Housing Improvement Association, a self-regulatory body, because building industry leaders were concerned about faulty work. The council received all-party support in parliament in 1965, and in March 1966 it won the backing of the building societies.

Mr Bean says: "We know from other parts of the construction industry that the cowboy is not dead. He still operates in small-scale residential developments and conversions."

"However, because of the discipline we impose on the industry, ours is the most effective form of industry self-regulation there is. In and around the Sixties, cowboy building was on the lips of everyone, including members of parliament. Seldom do you now hear questions in parliament about poor quality."

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 Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
 Royal Town Planning Institute
 Society of Community Medicine
 Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians

"A new house is the largest investment you are going to make. There are government regulatory bodies for buying shares, but we regulate ourselves."

The NHBC is run as a commercial body, despite being non-profit-making. This is why it changed the title of its senior executive from director-general to chief executive. Being cost-efficient has high priority. The NHBC is not a trade associ-

ation and its council includes all the main bodies concerned with house building and consumer protection. Membership is reviewed regularly, and a recent recruit was a representative from the British Standards Institution. Council members are unpaid.

Mr Bean says: "Some of the decisions we take are not necessarily welcomed wholeheartedly by house builders. Improvements to technical specifications will add to the cost of building a house. We try to get a consensus, since improvements will eliminate defects and the cost of claims, so the industry will get the benefit of lower insurance premiums."

The council often introduces new requirements on a voluntary basis so that the industry has time to get used to them before they are made mandatory. An example is information to be supplied to home-buyers on the size of rooms and the number and location of power points, which becomes compulsory on April 1. Improvements to security, including window catches and door locks, were agreed by a committee including police, the Home Office and prisoner rehabilitation experts, and phased in gradually. "These

desirable features are now as commonplace as hot and cold water," Mr Bean says.

The council is also investigating standards for free-standing walls and drainage, at the request of the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Claims for structural defects have shown a fall in recent years, although part of the drop may reflect the low level of house building in 1979-82; claims tend to come seven to nine years after building. From £3.1 million in the year to March 1987, the figure dropped to about £2 million in 1988, £7.5 million in 1989 and about £7 million last year.

"There is an important link between our claims experience and the monitoring and raising of standards," Mr Bean says. "For example, flat roof claims have been virtually eliminated since we revised our specifications."

The NHBC has three sources of income. There is a modest joining fee and an annual renewal fee based on the developer's productivity during the previous three years. The biggest fee paid by builders is for each house they register. This fee is based on the selling price of the dwelling, the length of time the builder has been on the register and also his claims record.

The average fee works out at 0.3-0.4 per cent of the cost of the house, an average of about £250 a house for the UK. "For that, the builder has information, guidance and advice, about ten inspections, and protection for ten years."

Getting tough over shoddy workmanship

Any of the 30,000 member builders in Britain who fail to meet the council's high standards face being thrown out

Builders on the National House Building Council's register range from the giants to the toddlers, but they have one thing in common: to get on the register, they have had to prove that they are financially sound and can build to required standards.

To ensure that there is no backsliding, the council is prepared to discipline rule-breakers, even to expel those who refuse to put right bad work.

More than 30,000 builders throughout Britain belong to the council, and more applications roll in each year. More than 90 per cent of all houses built for sale in Britain are erected by council members.

At one end of the scale, well-known names with stock-market listings, such as Tarmac, Bovis, Barratt and Beazer, each build between 12,000 and 14,000 homes a year. In contrast, the register contains family firms employ-

ing against faulty work. Applicants to join the national register have to provide financial and other references which are investigated. Builders are interviewed by council technical staff to assess their ability.

The NHBC says: "Great care is taken to check any connection between applicants and firms previously deleted from the register. The applicant may have to accept responsibility for any claims received from purchasers of homes built by a connected company."

To improve standards and to reduce the cost of claims that the whole industry has to bear from the minority who default, the council imposes sanctions on problem builders.

A special team looks at sites causing concern. If defects pointed out by council inspectors are not put right, surcharges may be imposed. To show it means business, the council strikes about 40 buildings a year off its register.

The disciplinary committee has a reputation in the industry for being tough. Builders do not go soft on their fellow members out of misplaced sympathy. However, the council says it does everything in its power to make a member comply with its standards. It regards striking off a member as a failure by the council as well as the builder.

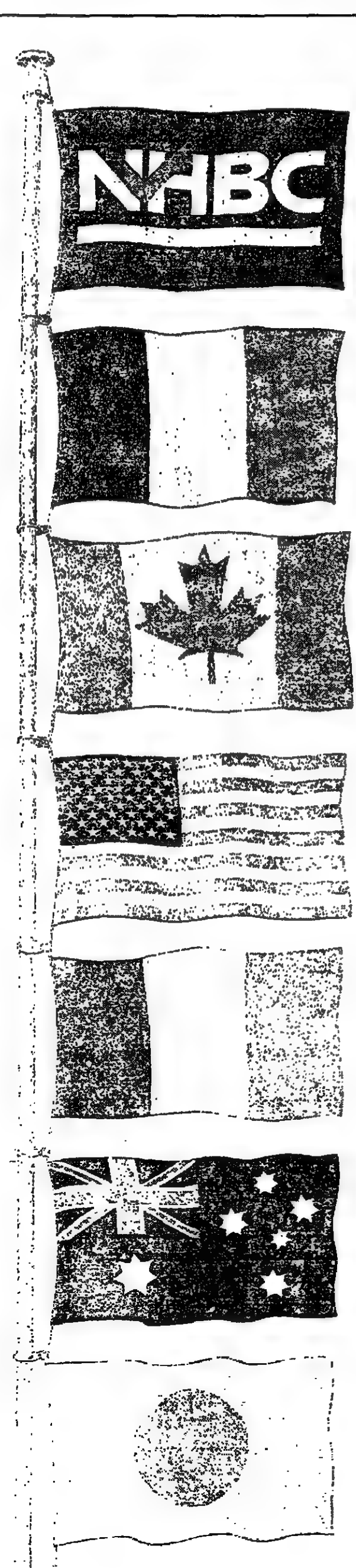
But raising standards means more than threatening members. The council looks for new ways to ensure that houses give good service long after the warranty has run out, monitoring recurring defects.

One of the council's early successes was to discover why concrete ground floors sank and cracked. Research showed the problem arose when infill under the floor was more than 600mm deep and had not been properly compacted. A 1975 council regulation required floors above deep infill to be suspended from the walls.

By 1981, the council was up on the roofs, finding out why flat ones were leading to millions of pounds worth of claims. Clear directions were introduced for the correct use of materials and the minimum slope was increased to ensure that water ran off more easily. Insulation of homes has improved, but that brought problems in the winter of 1985-86. Many tanks and pipes froze in cold roof spaces. Insulation is now placed over pipes and tanks instead of under them.

RODNEY HOBSON

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Progress report: Ken Sampson (centre), regional winner of the housing site supervision award, and the NHBC's Michael Moore check on-site work

Building pride into the job

On any project, a good site manager is vital for success.

Michael Hatfield reports on the search for the best in Britain

To the untrained eye, one building site is like any other: a scene of muscular activity of churning cement-mixers, banging hammers and clanging scaffolding. But there are good sites and there are bad sites, as any victim of shoddy and delayed work will testify.

Ten years ago, the National House Building Council (NHBC) launched its Pride in the Job campaign to improve standards. Every year, awards are made to the best manager of a large building site and to the best supervisor of a site with fewer than 200 units a year.

The winner of the large-site award in 1990 was Richard Wozniakiewicz of Ideal Homes Midlands, for his company's 220-unit development in Countershorpe, Leicestershire. Stuart Kirk, with



Winner of 1990's large-site award Richard Wozniakiewicz (right), with Sir Lawrence Barratt, of Barratt Homes

Barratt South Wales, won the other for the Ridgmont Park site at Langstone, near Newport, Gwent.

They were judged the best from 20,000 site managers who came under the scrutiny of the council's inspectors. After the inspectors make recommendations, regional directors pick the top 100 site supervisors, then the regional

winner. Finally, the council's national executives select the sites to select the two winners.

Marks are awarded for on-site organisation, quality of substructure, superstructure, finishes, external works and quality control.

Diane Davis, the council's special events manager, says: "A potential award winner may be a good site manager,

but he may have a bad reputation among those who have moved into homes on the site. They may not like the workmanship on their homes, or his attitude, and would be quick to make their views known."

To avoid an embarrassing clash, the council commissions National Opinion Polls to carry out a housing survey

all homes that receive state mortgages.

The big difference between the systems operating internationally is cost. The French, Belgian and Swedish systems, which give slightly better cover, cost at least five times as much as the system run in Britain by the NHBC. The Dutch system provides better cover, but the scheme costs about 50 per cent more.

The American and Canadian systems, both broadly modelled on the British scheme, offer similar value for money. But the lack of central control over warranty programmes in the US is said to be creating problems.

MICHAEL HATFIELD

When an inspector calls

Standards are changing in today's housing industry

Smoke detectors may become an integral part of new homes when the National House Building Council (NHBC) this month takes a decision on the issue.

It is a measure that fire service chiefs have sought for some time, but they failed to get the environment department to include it in the government's building regulations.

The council is pursuing the idea as part of the construction requirements for its 30,000 members, who represent 95 per cent of builders and developers of new homes (Michael Hatfield writes).

The initiative is part of a broader scrutiny of all aspects of house security being examined by the council's standards committee in consultation with the police, fire service and consumer groups.

The issue of smoke detectors is not controversial, but other policy standards are not so straightforward.

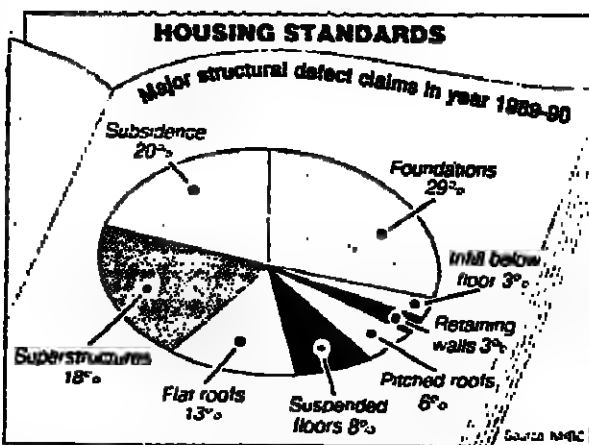
The council, which has just completed revising its 300-page handbook of technical requirements for members on the design and construction of dwellings, is wrestling with a difficult problem: how best to make secure a front door.

The police would like a key to be used on the outside and inside. The fire service, on the other hand, argues that if the key is mislaid, there can be delays when escaping from a house during a fire. They would prefer to see a night latch and bolts on the inside.

The police say these are easier for a house-breaker to undo.

Ian Davis, the council's director of standards, says: "We are continuing our consultations, but eventually we shall adopt a policy that will have to be implemented by our members."

The issue of detectors and door locks, when resolved, will be only two of a series of technical requirements im-



posed on council members and enforced by a nationwide team of 80 qualified engineers and building surveyors and 400 trained inspectors.

It is estimated that there are 20,000 sites for new homes in the United Kingdom. Engineers and building surveyors are first in when planning permission is given by a council, inspecting the plans and designs and such basics as foundations and drainage.

It is the inspectors who examine the quality of construction behind the plaster and woodwork, sometimes in

and have accounted for 20 per cent and superstructures, including brickwork and render failure, 18 per cent of complaints. The settlement of floors once accounted for 40 per cent of complaints. This has been cut to 8 per cent.

Remediating structural defects costs money, either to the builder or the council, which is why there is a constant tightening up of technical requirements and standards.

The inspector, therefore, when he pokes and prods around the foundations, will not only want to see if the right bricks have been used, or whether the height is correct, but will want to know whether the cement has been mixed to the specified consistency.

The same rigorous inspection is carried out throughout the dwelling, from load bearing walls and floors to roof spaces, services and decoration.

Failure by members, after inspection and completion, to meet their obligations if there are complaints can lead to expulsion from the council, although there are a variety of conciliation stages through which a builder can pass before that can happen.

From 1989 to 1990, 46 companies were expelled from the council, half of them for failing to register homes and about a quarter for failing to remedy defects. Other reasons were failure to honour arbitration awards, liability for an associate and failure to exchange council agreements with the home-buyers.

More than 40 companies were expelled, some for not fixing faults

the company of a surveyor, which the house-owner is not able to see. The council spends £250,000 a year training inspectors.

When an inspector visits a site, and there is more than one visit, he carries with him the handbook and a checklist of inspections, called Target 35. This identifies the key stages of construction and targets those elements where potential problems occur. It also records every inspection in every home under council warranty and building control.

Foundations were the cause of 29 per cent of structural defect claims against the council last year. Subsidence

have not been observed. If a home owner and the builder cannot agree whether a defect exists, or how it should be put right, the house owner can go to the council for conciliation. If defects are found, the builder will have to put the work right.

Minor defects in the home are most likely to come to light during the initial two-year period, when there is protection against all defects. Until the end of the tenth year, however, Buildmark provides cover against major damage arising from structural defects or against defects in the drainage system, resulting from failure to comply with the council's technical requirements.

It's not every day the Prince of Wales hands out an award for good building design.

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Even so, such awards are very acceptable. Especially when they are presented by

Security for older home-buyers



Homes for the elderly: a new development in Cumbria

OLD PEOPLE in sheltered housing need special safeguards, such as a warden and an alarm-monitoring system, and to have their rights clearly explained. The National House Building Council has its own code for sheltered housing, which was strengthened last year.

The council insists that the first buyer of a sheltered dwelling must be given an information pack when serving the property. Buyers thus have time to consider the details. Information must be in type large enough for those with limited sight.

The management organisation taking over the running of the development must enter into a management agreement on NHBC terms. These terms must be complied with even if the freehold or leasehold is sold to another company.

Information supplied to the buyer includes details of the landlord and the management organisation, and will set out the buyer's legal rights and the main provisions of any lease, such as ground rent, services

and facilities and any limitations, such as on pets.

Buyers must also be told of arrangements for consultation between the residents' association and the landlord or management organisation, which must recognise any association with 51 per cent of the residents as members.

The council says residents are entitled to be consulted on issues involving the management of the estate and must be given a copy of the accounts for management services, audited by an independent accountant. Residents must be given a copy of the proposed budget for management services for the coming financial year and there should be at least one meeting of all buyers before the annual review of service charges.

The code calls for buyers to be given details of charges, including a breakdown of how they are split between dwellings, as well as a warning of how often charges will be collected and reviewed.

RODNEY HOBSON

How the scheme works

CARRYING the endorsement of the National House Building Council does not give a builder carte blanche to do what he likes. It means control. The council's inspectors make regular visits to sites to make sure that specifications are met.

More than the reputation of the council is at stake. Complaints about faulty workmanship could cost huge sums of money if the home-buyer is dissatisfied (Michael Hatfield writes).

Control starts early in the house-building process. Preliminary advice is given on schemes, followed by a checking of working drawings and site approval. Inspectors will carry out initial ground investigations and there will be site approval.

Not all homes on a site are necessarily inspected in detail. It is possible for the builder to be given "type approval", which means that a particular design, or construction feature likely to be repeated, complies with the building regulations and technical stipulations of the council.

House type approval is generally given for above-ground construction, but may include ground-floor construction and other variations.

Once a builder has been given house type approval, he will not normally need to send further drawings for the superstructure with his site application.

The local authority's powers of enforcement for breaches under the regulations are suspended where an approved council inspector supervises the work. A builder must rectify any contravention the council has notified within three months, or within six weeks of occupation.

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Even so, such awards are very acceptable. Especially when they are presented by

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SECRETARY (22557-3571)

Better tests of a child's potential

School reports may be misleading. To gain a more accurate assessment, progress needs to be linked to a pupil's ability to achieve

WE HAVE all read school reports that say, "Andrew is under-achieving", and "Barbara is making pleasing progress". But how can teachers be sure Andrew is under-achieving? Perhaps Barbara is capable of making excellent rather than just pleasing progress, and her parents should be concerned.

The need to compare achievements with abilities lies at the heart of so many of the present discussions in education. Can a value-added aspect be found for every pupil? How does one fairly recognise a good school?

The simplest method is to count A grades at GCSE or A-level. But the select intake of some schools should produce these top grades. Other schools with a wider range of abilities among pupils may be more efficient. Parents consider these matters and make guesses in choosing schools most likely to benefit their children.

When the first 11-year-old girls joined Sevenoaks school, Kent, at which I teach, in 1984, which was kept on the relative achievements of boys and girls. When grades were counted, it was found that the girls' achievements equaled the boys at O and A-levels.

When GCSE examinations replaced O-levels, results were again well balanced, apart from the girls' gaining more A grades. Top A grades are more plentiful under GCSE.

It is possible, though, to be more precise if the intelligence quotient (IQ) is considered. At Sevenoaks, connections, linking IQ scores, GCSE results and A-level results for last summer's leavers are known. We have many pupils with high ability who need little help in choosing subjects at A-level. But for the majority who do not have IQs of 145 but perhaps 125 or so, the level of achievement to expect at GCSE is becoming clearer. For these pupils, counting three points for a grade A, two for B and one for C, the total points gained at GCSE can be found. The total roughly matches the IQ less 100. Other rules of thumb, to estimate the total number of A-level points to be expected, can be used. The

IQ and GCSE grade methods give very approximate results. The best predictor of an A-level grade in any one subject is the mean GCSE result. To find this mean, count seven points for every A grade, six for a B and so on. Divide this total by the number of subjects. If Barbara gained eight grade Bs, one A and one C, the mean for her GCSE results is 6.0, equivalent to a grade B.

What are her chances at A-level in various subjects? By comparing every student's GCSE mean with the grades obtained in his or her subjects at A-level, a chart can be drawn up and predictions made for future pupils. (It is sensible to exclude the extreme means of the top and bottom 25 per cent of students gaining every grade in every A-level subject.)

A chart compiled by Sevenoaks showed the links for the school last summer. It suggested that Barbara with a GCSE mean grade B could get A grades in history, geography and business studies, or B grades if she read English, mathematics, physics or chemistry. Other rules of thumb suggest that with an IQ of 120, she is unlikely to gain A grades in all her three chosen subjects, but should do well enough to get a university place if she wants, or a place at a polytechnic. If she gains three grade Bs or less at A-level, she has under-achieved by Sevenoaks standards. If she obtains two A grades and a B, she has made excellent progress.

Data for pupils from other schools could be charted similarly. Is it necessary for schools to struggle with more complicated assessment criteria? Primary teachers now have to spend weeks at a time testing and assessing their pupils.

Using guidelines such as I have described would enable schools to assess more simply the effectiveness of their academic teaching. Reports would still commend Barbara and challenge Andrew to achieve more, but would be based on a wealth of past experience.

PATRICIA JOHNSON
The author is senior mistress of Sevenoaks School, Kent.



Eager to learn: pupils at Cheltenham Ladies' College. Now children from less well off homes may be able to enjoy a privileged education, thanks to more assisted place awards

Why charity begins at school

A report published today shows that private school heads are to put more effort into establishing bursaries in order that extra places may be offered to less fortunate children. John O'Leary reports

Nobody can pretend that independent education is as yet affordable for the majority of the population, but schools have made strenuous efforts to widen their social bases in the past few years. Put it down to prudent planning for the future or even a collective guilty conscience, but the change has been marked.

Since 1982, the number of pupils receiving scholarships or bursaries from their schools has doubled. A survey last year by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) put the total at 67,000, more than 14 per cent of pupils.

When the numbers benefiting from the government's assisted places scheme and other external awards from trusts and companies are included, the proportion receiving some help with fees rises to almost a quarter. Boys' schools have better than girls' schools, but the number of awards is rising in every sector. Even the prep schools, where money is often less plentiful, now have more than 15,000 awards.

For many schools, the question is not whether they have enough scholarships and bursaries, but whether the money is being used in the most effective way. Prompted by an initiative from the Headmasters' Conference (HMC), many are rethinking their system of

awards with an eye to reaching more needy families. As a first stage in this process, 174 HMC schools, mainly the bigger mixed or boys' schools, agreed to limit their maximum scholarships to half the fees unless a means test showed that parents still could not afford the cost of a place. Some of the remaining 36 conference members are following the spirit of the agreement, but are unable to sign up fully because their statutes guarantee larger awards.

The architect of the scheme is Martin Marshall, the headmaster of Marlborough school, near Bournemouth. He says: "Most of the schools have pretty limited resources to put into scholarships and bursaries. Often the scholarships go to boys whose parents are already paying the full fees. I felt I would rather give a limited sum to reward a pupil academically, but save some of the money to give to other boys and girls as bursaries."

"This ties in happily with the fact that we are all charitable institutions. I think it is appropriate that we should be giving away more of our money to enable

children to come to our schools who otherwise could not do so." Canford will be among the schools implementing the agreement this year, reducing the maximum value of a dozen scholarships from the present 75 per cent of fees. A bursary scheme for the sons of clergymen has always enabled the school to maintain a good balance between awards for excellence in art, music or academic achievement, and those for poorer parents, but the switch will tip the balance further.

Some would like to see an even lower threshold. Derek Jewell, the master of Halesbury, who saw the agreement through the HMC, says: "I would like to see the limit set at 30 per cent, but it was important to make a start. One of the things I feel strongly about is that if we are charitable institutions, we should act charitably."

"Since we have never had means testing before, it is impossible to say how much money can be redistributed like this, but since a lot of scholarships go to boys from prep schools, it is fair to assume that it will be quite a lot." The bursars' association has

issued a model form to carry out the means tests, although schools are free to adjust the thresholds. Parents are asked to declare income and capital assets, enabling the schools to calculate net family resources after the deduction of mortgage payments and any other school fees.

Although the details of the criteria used are confidential, the effect at the mid-point of the scale is for a family with net resources of £20,000 a year to be asked to contribute about £4,000 in fees.

Some girls' schools are moving in the same direction, although the impact will be less marked because of the smaller number of scholarships available. At Cheltenham Ladies' College, for example, internal scholarships are already means tested and, apart from one award worth two-thirds of fees, the 50 per cent principle is accepted.

Enid Castle, the headmistress, says: "We still do not offer many scholarships. It is difficult to have established a bursary fund and we are trying to build it up, but a fund of £100,000 does not go far

when your fees are £9,000 a year." Most of the money from the fund goes to support existing pupils who experience a family tragedy or who otherwise would have to leave because of changed financial circumstances at home. The college also has a range of scholarships to reward outstanding talent in music and art, as well as academic prowess.

With fees throughout most of the independent sector rising faster than inflation, the demand for scholarships and bursaries is certain to increase, and the schools recognise the importance of making more people aware of the opportunities they offer. A survey published today by ISIS found four out of five heads intending to put more effort into promotion and marketing.

The survey, of 50 independent schools of all types, showed that those intentions, however, were often not put into practice. Only one in five had carried out any market research among parents in the past five years, and most relied on five or six hours a week by a staff member for promotion.

David Woodhead, the national director of ISIS, says: "The survey confirms that most schools now recognise that a good communications policy is an essential element in the running of a successful school. But they have to put those intentions into practice."

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Continued on next page

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George Graham has time to reflect on irony as his side's unbeaten run in the Football League is halted at Stamford Bridge

Tough week takes toll on Arsenal

By CLIVE WHITE

Chelsea 2
Arsenal 1

IF THE result had not been so upsetting, George Graham, the Arsenal manager, would have enjoyed having the last laugh on Saturday. Held to a 2-1 defeat by Chelsea, the Arsenal manager has been criticised for his apparent obsession for buying centre backs - there are seven on Highbury's books - it was a little ironic that Arsenal's run of 23 League games without defeat should finally come to an end because of a lack of them.

At least, that was how Graham saw the reason for Arsenal's "failure" to add to what has been a magnificent club record. Disruptive though the half-time loss of Steve Bould, with an ankle injury, may have been to them, one could not help feeling that Arsenal lost this game over the course of two furiously contested FA Cup fourth round ties against Leeds United last week.

Graham insisted that was not the reason and that it was Arsenal, not Chelsea, who were going wrong at the end. Nobody would question Arsenal's fitness but it did appear to several observers that the edge, both physical and mental, had been shaved off their game.

A further irony was that Graham had had Colin Pates, one of his few available centre backs and, of course, a former Chelsea captain, on the bench at Leeds when he did not need him but left him out altogether at Stamford Bridge. Instead, David Hillier, a midfield player, was brought in to fill the void when Bould fell victim to what Graham thought was a late tackle from Gareth Hall.

The Arsenal manager saw it as the turning point in the game though his side's superiority had barely been apparent amid the welter of misplaced passes and interceptions by both sides in a derby of quite appalling standard. Veterans of this fixture,



Low-flying interception: a perfectly executed sliding tackle from Wise, of Chelsea, ends the run of the Swede, Linper, of Arsenal, on Saturday

such as Ted Drake, Roy Bentley, Denis Compton, Reg Lewis and Bobby Tambling, all of whom were introduced to the crowd beforehand, must have left feeling envious only of the modern game's financial awards.

It cried out for their kind of quality and even the excellent Anders Limpar, superbly contained by Hillier, could make no headway. Even Graham's reason for substituting Limpar in the 74th minute was an indictment of the game. "I wanted more power. Anders wants the

ball to feet, more quality stuff," he said. Arsenal had fallen behind seven minutes earlier to a goal which they conceded rather than Chelsea scored. David Seaman was wrong-footed by Nigel Winterburn, his own defender, as he came for a near-post flick by Kerry Dixon to a free kick from Hillier.

Winterburn succeeded only in nudging the ball past his stranded goalkeeper to where Graham Stuart was presented with the simplest of headers. Until then, Stuart, being

played out of position as a replacement for Gordon Durie, who was suspended, had done no better or worse than the misplaced Hillier. It was in his natural role of provider rather than finisher that he was more deserving of plaudits.

One of the early products of the FA's school of excellence, since which he has become known as "Bobby" after the former England manager, he opened up the Arsenal defence with a beautifully incisive pass

to Damian Matthew, his young colleague, in the 88th minute. Matthew in turn neatly rounded Andy Linper before unselfishly giving Dixon the chance to score. It was a sweet move irrespective of whether or not Dixon was outside, as Graham thought he was.

Alan Smith's goal in injury time was simply an indication of Arsenal's resilience. Let Liverpool be in no doubt, Arsenal will bounce back from this defeat. Bould's injury,

however, could present Arsenal with a problem, hard as it is to believe, at centre back, what with David O'Leary still injured and Tony Adams otherwise indisposed. Who knows? Perhaps Pates will finally get his chance to make a telling contribution.

CHelsea: D. Seaman; G. Hall, A. Doran, A. Townsend, S. Clarke, K. Morrison, G. Le Seau (sub: J. Burroughs, D. Maddison, D. Dixon, D. Stuart, D. Wise). Arsenal: D. Seaman; L. Dixon, N. Winterburn, M. Thomas, S. Bould (sub: D. Hillier), A. Smith, P. Goobes, P. Dixon, M. P. Wilson, A. Limpar (sub: K. Campbell, R. Collier).

Southampton are suitably dressed for old treatment

From PETER BALL

Sheffield United 4
Southampton 1

YORKSHIREMEN of a certain age were used to seeing southern teams surrendering meekly in murky conditions at Bramall Lane. It happened all the time in the days of Bill Bowes or Freddie Trueman, and on Saturday Southampton revived an old tradition.

Fittingly, they were even wearing all white as Sheffield United claimed their biggest win of the season to move off the bottom of the first division for the first time since October. Suddenly things look very tight down there, with at least eight clubs still involved in a struggle, which could run until the final Saturday.

Southampton are certainly one of them. "I'm ashamed," Chris Nicholl said. "We knew what to expect, but players went missing, the 'keeper went missing."

Flowers was not the only culprit for the debacle which started with Booker scoring his first two goals of the season from Hodges' corners in the space of two minutes. Hodges then turned in Deane's cross and Deane rounded things off in another burst of two goals in two minutes.

The rout had taken half an hour. Five minutes later, Osman departed. Was he injured? "I hope so," Nicholl said. A pause. "I hope he was hurt by being taken off." So was he blaming Osman for the goals? "It was an option open to us to

get on Ruddock to head the ball away. And he did so."

With the defence belatedly shored up, Shearer hit the post either side of half-time, the first time culpably from eight yards, the second splendidly from 25. Had either of those gone in, things might have been different, but the damage had already been done.

Even so, when Moore scored, the home side began to filter. The victim of influenza, the local expert suggested. Not a bit of it. "He had a meander and decided he was Hidekuni at centre-forward rather than playing midfield," Bassett said. "When Glyn decides it's one of those days, he thinks he's the fairy on top of the cake."

But if the love-hate relationship of their Wimbledon days has not abated, player and manager seem to survive on it. Hodges has only one game left - against Manchester United in nine days time - before his loan period expires.

Sheffield reportedly cannot afford to let him go. He has brought a touch of class to the struggle, a commodity in desperately short supply at Bramall Lane since the days of Tony Currie, if not Len Hutton. It could prove decisive in the fascinating days that lay ahead.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: S. Trueman; C. White, D. Barnes, R. Booker, P. Shearer, G. H. R. Riddock (sub: J. Gannon), B. Deane, I. Bryson.

SOUTHAMPTON: T. Flowers; J. Dodd, A. Cook, J. Carr, R. Carr, R. Carr, N. Riddock, S. Gossanov, S. Home, A. Shearer, A. McLoughlin, R. Wallace. Referee: I. G. Grisham.

When patience can be overstretched

By IAN ROSS

Everton 2
Sunderland 0

IF A defeat that may well hasten his team's return to the second division did not noticeably dampen the spirits of Denis Smith, the Sunderland manager, the standard of refereeing during the course of an unduly and unattractive match most certainly did.

Having made clear his reluctance to criticise officials, Smith promptly crossed the thin line between discussion and accusation to question the validity of a penalty which was instrumental in deciding the outcome.

An incident in the 59th minute increased Sunderland. Owers' outstretched hand made contact with a McCall pass and the referee, Keith Cooper, adjudging intent in an action which was possibly insincere rather than premeditated, gave Everton a penalty.

Although Sheedy's kick was blocked by Norman, the ball fell kindly for the taker and he produced a clinical finish at the second attempt.

Smith, who also saw four of his players cautioned in a tempestuous opening half, was dismayed by a decision that ushered Everton forward to a less than convincing but deserved victory.

"The penalty changed the

whole game because up until that point we had done the hard part, we had beaten them," he said. "I believe it was ball to hand rather than the other way round. Certainly, Owers himself did not know much about it because he wasn't looking at the ball at the time."

Smith's argument that the result amounted to gross injustice would have been lent a good deal more credence had Sunderland not performed in such a timid and negative fashion. Not once was Southall, the Everton goalkeeper, called upon to make a save of any description. Everton were similarly unappealing but created sufficient chances to have won by a more convincing margin.

Despite what later in the day had become a further for the first time, the result beyond doubt in the 68th minute with a tame header which Norman allowed to roll under his body.

Everton have won eight of their last nine matches, but Howard Kendall, the team manager, was merrily accurate when he said that this was a game where patience was needed. Presumably he meant both on and off the pitch.

EVERTON: N. Southall; N. McDonald, J. Ezzell, K. Randall, G. Weston, M. Higgins (sub: A. Connolly, P. McColl, G. Sharp, K. Sheedy, P. Sheedy).

SUNDERLAND: A. Norman; R. Ord, P. Hartman, G. Sheedy, K. Bell, G. Owers, P. Brown, J. Sheedy, P. Sheedy, G. Sheedy, G. Sheedy (sub: G. Sheedy, G. Sheedy).

New parts required despite the glitter

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

Tottenham Hotspur 0
Leeds United 0

ARRIVE at White Hart Lane by the front entrance and an Aladdin's Cave of a car park confronts you. BMWs, Porsches, Rolls-Royces and even a discreetly parked stretch limo. The place reeks of wealth and prosperity.

Yet Tottenham are deep in the throes of financial depression. An eight-figure debt, widespread City criticism and the all-too-real prospect of being forced to sell their most prized players, On the pitch, it is much the same. The bodywork sparkles and the engine purrs; sleek and sophisticated with a hint of steel. A team full of drive and eternal promise.

Yet the illusion is complete. Tottenham have long since conceded the first division title. Too many parts now need renewing. Despite a still gleaming exterior, they would struggle to pass an MOT.

Leeds United offered honest endeavour and valiant resistance on Saturday, plus several classic counter-attacks which kept Thorpe, the Tottenham goalkeeper, from freezing solid. Although they clearly travelled with such a style in mind, it became a matter of absolute necessity following the double loss of Chapman and Pearson.

Chapman, their 18-goal forward, lasted just 90 seconds. He ducked into a challenge from Sedgley, caught a boot full in the

face and crashed headlong into the surrounding cinder track. After a worrying few minutes, he was helped off with concussion, a broken nose and other facial injuries. Yesterday, he underwent surgery in Leeds and will stay in hospital for a few days.

Carson, his replacement, failed to reappraise for the second half after a crunching tackle from Van den Hauwe had left him with damaged knee ligaments. Leeds' continued progression in both FA Cup and Rumbelow Cup may now lie with the skills of their medical team.

Tottenham should have taken full advantage of their opponents' tale of woe. Following a non-event of a first half, they powered forward to test Luke in numerous occasions. Wales, Van den Hauwe and Lincker all suffered at his safe hands.

Without Gascoigne, however, they lacked the guile or flash of inspiration to make the telling break as Leeds tried. England's favourite son was missing with a strange combination of high temperature and groin strain. There are many others at the club for whom life is not too good at the moment. All is not what it may seem at White Hart Lane.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E. Thorpe; T. Fenwick, P. Van den Hauwe, S. Sedgley, N. Smith, V. Samuels, G. Hobbins, Stewart, M. Thomas, P. Walsh, G. Lincker, P. Allen.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Luke; M. Sheridan, P. Haddock, M. Whitlow, G. Farquhar, G. Whyte, G. Speed, A. Williams, L. Chapman, P. Pearson (sub: G. Snodgrass), G. McAllister, G. Snodgrass. Referee: K. Barnett.

Bull and Birch keep supporters happy

STEVE Bull did not disappoint his devotees, making one goal and scoring another - his twentieth of the season - as Wolverhampton Wanderers beat West Ham United 2-1 at Molineux on Saturday.

Considering that the teams took the field to Bull's personal fanfare, his familiar crew-cut adorned a thousand tea-shirts on sale around the ground and the place came alive whenever the object of all this adoration appeared within touching distance of the ball, it seemed the best he could do.

Even his most zealous supporter would acknowledge that Bull the creator is an unaccustomed role, but in the 44th minute he acted as a decoy, drawing the West Ham defenders out of position, and permitting Paul Birch to score with an angled drive.

It was Birch's first appearance for Wolves after a £400,000 transfer from Aston Villa, and he made a telling contribution down the right flank. With the blond winger wide, Wolves had an alternative option to their usual policy of thumping the ball up the field for Bull.

The second goal was due to an uncharacteristic error from Ian Bishop, whose ill-advised back-pass was gobbled up by Andy Mutch, who centred for Bull to do what he does best.

LOUISE TAYLOR reviews the second division

Frank McAviney reduced the deficit after Tony Gale's initial header rebounded off the bar, but the second division leaders had already been undone by the marriage of Bull's raw, often ragged, determination to Birch's vision and sureness of touch.

Wolves are now one place and two points short of a play-off position and will be encouraged by set-backs among the leadership on Saturday. Most surprising was Oldham Athletic's 5-1 defeat at Oxford United which prompted the question - just how good will they be after the Boundary Park plastic is dug up this summer?

Oldham say second, four points ahead of Sheffield Wednesday, who recovered from being two down at half-time to take a point at Watford. But their rivals hope that Wednesday's continued involvement in the FA and Rumbelow Cups will detract from their league performances.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: M. Sheridan, P. Haddock, M. Whitlow, G. Farquhar, G. Whyte, G. Speed, A. Williams, L. Chapman, P. Pearson (sub: G. Snodgrass), G. McAllister, G. Snodgrass. Referee: K. Barnett.

Nottingham Forest 0
Crystal Palace 1

IN GAINING quick revenge for their FA Cup exit at the hands of Nottingham Forest last Monday, Crystal Palace gave their answer to those who believe that this season's championship is a two-horse race between Liverpool and Arsenal. Palace's second performance at the City Ground on Saturday suggested that their recent setbacks were a mere hiccup.

The way Palace survived an uncomfortable first 25 minutes, in which Forest could have scored three times, was the stuff of title contenders. Sensing that

Forest might have shot their bolt, Palace attacked more often in the second half and threatened a winner long before Eric Young obliged four minutes from the end.

The centre half, making a rare excursion into the Forest penalty area, beat everybody to Andy Gray's high, searching free kick, and the faintest of touches sent the ball past Mark Croxley, the Forest goalkeeper.

Full marks to Palace for doing their homework after a comprehensive defeat by Forest in the FA Cup third-round second replay. Geoff Thomas, the captain, filling in alongside Young, was as effective in defence as he has been in midfield, while John Salako, another versatile player, was no less reliable at left back,

the master of his fascinating duel with Gary Crosby.

Martyr, the Palace goalkeeper, played his part by saving well from Pearce and Christie but could do little about a Crosby header which rattled the crossbar. Although Forest had far more of the ball, Palace created the better chances. This was mainly due to Wright's startling speed and awareness. A seventh-minute miss, when Humphrey's superb pass left him with only Crosby to beat, was the only blot on his display.

One feels that the Forest manager, Brian Clough, would gladly have swapped FA Cup progress for a victory on Saturday. Clough has made it clear that League football is his priority and that he is unhappy

at Forest being in the bottom half of the first division. He must have been unhappy, too, at how easily Palace dampened Forest's fire in the fourth meeting between these teams in the past month.

In the early stages, Palace were like a pack of Rotweillers, snapping at Forest's heels. Salako was booked for a harsh tackle and Pardew and Gray were both spoken to. Palace continued down after that as Forest, unlike last Monday, ran out of steam and ideas.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Croxley; G. Thomas, S. Pearce, D. Walker, S. Christie, S. Hodge, J. T. Wilson, N. Clough, R. Kettle, G. Pardew.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Wright; J. Humphrey, P. Sheedy, G. Gray, E. Young, A. Pearce, J. Salako, G. Thomas, M. Wright, P. Barber. Referee: K. Cooper.

FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

First division									
1	Derby	2	Bristol City	3	Sheff Wed	4	Sheff Utd	5	Sheff Utd
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